

CONDUCTION MECHANISMS IN LOW BREAKDOWN  
VOLTAGE SILICON P-N JUNCTIONS

By

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White noise spectra of diodes 1N746 to 1N752 have been used to investigate the reverse conduction mechanisms in silicon junctions breaking down by a combination of tunneling and impact ionization multiplication. The reverse voltages at the onset of multiplication noise indicate that, regardless of junction field strengths, carrier multiplication sets in only when the carrier energies exceed the threshold energies for ionization. Further examination of noise data yields their values, indicating that the multiplication process is dominated by the effects of the threshold energies for ionization. When they are taken into account, it becomes clear why Tager's

and McIntyre's theories of noise in avalanche diodes, and the conventional DC multiplication calculations, are not applicable to low breakdown voltage diodes. Consequently, a new method of performing DC multiplication calculations as well as a new theory of noise in low breakdown voltage diodes is developed.

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

As the reverse bias across a p-n junction is increased, the junction eventually begins to pass appreciable current. Typical voltage-current characteristics for commercially available diodes are shown in Figure 1. It is evident that the reverse current characteristics are considerably different for p-n junctions which "break down" at different voltages.

The type of breakdown typified by Figure 1a is characterized by (i) temperature sensitive pre-breakdown (saturation) current which approximately doubles for each  $10^{\circ}\text{C}$  rise in temperature, (ii) a well-defined breakdown voltage,  $V_B$ , and (iii) a unique, positive, breakdown voltage temperature coefficient,  $B$ , defined by

$$V_B = V_{BO}[1+B(T-T_0)]$$

where  $V_{BO}$  is the breakdown voltage at room temperature,  $T_0$ . This type of breakdown, characteristic of relatively wide p-n junctions with  $V_B > 14$  volts, is commonly known as "avalanche" breakdown since it can be understood in terms of an impact ionization mechanism resembling an avalanche (Tyagi, 1968).

Reverse conduction of the type shown in Figure 1c is characterized by (i) temperature insensitive reverse current -- temperature change of 200°C changes the current by a factor of two or three, (ii) lack of well-defined breakdown voltage, and (iii) a negative temperature coefficient whose magnitude depends on temperature and reverse voltage. This type of breakdown, characteristic of narrow p-n junctions capable of passing considerable current densities at reverse voltages smaller than about 2.5 volts, can be understood in terms of internal field emission of valence band electrons, also known as Zener tunneling (Chynoweth et al., 1960; Tyagi, 1968).

P-n junctions which break down between about 2.5 to 14 volts do so as a result of the combined effect of internal field emission and impact ionization multiplication (Tyagi, 1968). Since most of the measurements which formed the basis for the understanding of p-n junction breakdown were DC measurements, this range of breakdown voltages has never been carefully investigated. The reason for it was the severe difficulty encountered in distinguishing the contributions of each of the two mechanisms.

The aim of this study was to investigate the reverse conduction mechanisms in diodes breaking down in this range of voltages. The difficulty which previous workers encountered in distinguishing the tunneling current from the impact ionization multiplied current was overcome

by using noise as a diagnostic tool, the idea being that noise would more closely reflect the basic microscopic conduction mechanisms. This technique was first employed by Lauritzen (1966) in determining the onset of carrier multiplication in low breakdown voltage silicon diodes. Interest in avalanche diodes as photodetectors, microwave signal sources, and amplifiers has already led to extensive experimental (Haitz, 1965, 1966; Haitz and Voltmer, 1968; Baertsch, 1966, 1967; Kumo et al., 1968) and theoretical (Tager, 1965; McIntyre, 1966; Hines, 1966; Gummel and Blue, 1967) studies of noise in these diodes at low and high frequencies.

Because noise measurements provide the experimental foundation of this study, Chapter II is primarily devoted to the experimental considerations and techniques involved in collecting the noise data. DC and capacitance measurements are discussed there also.

A general discussion of the data is undertaken in Chapter III. It is found that Tager's (1965) and McIntyre's (1966) theories of noise in avalanche diodes are incapable of explaining the data. The reason for this becomes clear when the mechanism of the onset of carrier multiplication is inferred from the noise data. It is then also apparent that the conventional method of calculating DC multiplication is not applicable to low breakdown voltage diodes.

When a new definition of the DC multiplication factor, and a new functional form of the expression for noise are introduced in Chapter IV, the noise data reveal in detail the influence of the threshold energies for ionization on the multiplication process. On basis of the inferences made in this and the preceding chapter, new theories of noise in low breakdown voltage diodes are developed and compared with experimental results.

The details of the multiplication process inferred in Chapters III and IV are incorporated in Chapter V, which discusses a simulation program implementing a new method of performing DC multiplication calculations in low breakdown voltage junctions. The results of the conventional and the new calculations are then compared with data.

Chapter VI summarizes the highlights.

Chapter VII suggests topics for further study.

CHAPTER II  
EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

The p-n junctions investigated in this study are commercially available diodes, types 1N746 to 1N752, manufactured by alloying small aluminum buttons onto n-type silicon. The raised appearance of the aluminum buttons, shown in a vertical cross-section of the diode in Figure 2, is the result of acid etch used to delineate the junction geometry and eliminate surface effects around the button periphery.

The samples chosen for study were those which exhibited very little flicker noise. In final samples, flicker noise was not noticeable at frequencies greater than 300 Hz. This selection criterion presumably eliminated from consideration those diodes in which surface or edge effects might have had significant influence on the reverse conduction mechanisms of the junctions. All final samples, whose DC V-I characteristics are shown in Figure 3, came from Continental Device Corporation, now Teledyne Semiconductor.

In this study the reverse conduction mechanisms were inferred from two sets of diode terminal measurements: the DC V-I characteristics and noise. The DC characteristics provided information on the average behavior of carriers in the junctions, whereas the noise measurements provided

statistical information on the transient, or microscopic, details of the conduction process. The noise measurements thus provided the groundwork details for the conduction model, which will be discussed in the following chapter.

The noise measurements, which form the experimental foundation of this study, were performed with the aid of the noise measurement system shown in Figure 4. The GR 1381 Random Noise Generator coupled to the HP 350-D 600  $\Omega$  attenuator supplied a 2 Hz to 50 KHz white noise calibration signal. The 600  $\Omega$  resistor following the attenuator provided the proper impedance match for the attenuator, while the 1  $\mu$ f capacitor in series with the 200 K $\Omega$  resistor provided DC and impedance isolation from the rest of the circuit. The impedance isolation was necessary to maintain a constant impedance level at the attenuator terminals regardless of the impedance levels existing in the diode bias network, and to convert the noise calibration network into a high impedance, current-like source to prevent excessive loading of the diode. The diode bias network consisted of a large number of wire wound resistors,  $R_b$ . When used to adjust the diode reverse current, they were chosen so that  $R_b$  was more than ten times greater than the diode dynamic resistance,  $R_d$ .

The low noise preamplifier used for its first stage a preselected sample of a Texas Instruments low noise JFET, the SFB 8558. The schematic diagram of the preamplifier is given in Figure 5, and the preamplifier's equivalent noise resistance

referred to the input,  $R_n$ , as a function of frequency, is given in Figure 6. The preamplifier was followed by a selectable gain amplifier which amplified the noise signal to a level suitable for processing by the GR 1925-1926 Real Time Spectrum Analyzer. The oscilloscope was used for visual observation of the noise waveforms.

The GR 1925-1926 Real Time Spectrum Analyzer contains a bank of 45 third-octave filters, ranging in center frequencies from 3.15 Hz to 80 KHz. The output of each filter is sampled for up to 32 seconds and the dB of the RMS voltage of each filter is computed and displayed on the GR 1926, or is printed out by the MDS 800 tape printer.

The measurements were performed as follows. First, the noise calibration signal, provided by the GR 1381 and the  $600 \Omega$  attenuator, was removed by disconnecting the attenuator from the circuit and replacing it with a  $600 \Omega$  resistor placed in parallel with the  $600 \Omega$  attenuator termination resistor. The diode bias resistor,  $R_b$ , was then chosen to obtain the desired value of diode reverse current, and five, 32 second, diode noise data sets were recorded. Next, the  $600 \Omega$  resistor in parallel with the attenuator termination resistor was removed, and the attenuator returned to the circuit. The attenuation level was then adjusted to obtain a calibration plus diode noise output about 20 dB higher than the diode noise output alone, and a second set of five, 32 second, readings was recorded. Given the system noise equivalent input circuit of Figure 7, it is a trivial matter

to determine that the diode noise current spectral density,  $s_{id}$ , is then given by

$$s_{id} = \frac{s'_{ig}}{\left[10^{\frac{\Delta \text{dB}}{10}} - 1\right]} - \frac{s_{va}}{|z_t|^2} - s_{ir} - s_{ib} \quad (2.1)$$

and

$$s'_{ig} = \left(\frac{1}{200\text{K}\Omega}\right)^2 \left(10^{\frac{-\text{dB}_{\text{att}}}{10}}\right) s_{vg} \quad (2.2)$$

$$s_{va} = 4kT R_n \quad (2.3)$$

$$s_{ir} = 4kT \left(\frac{1}{200\text{K}\Omega} + \frac{1}{200\text{K}\Omega}\right) \quad (2.4)$$

$$s_{ib} = \frac{4kT}{R_b} \quad (2.5)$$

$$|z_t|^2 = R_b^2 \left(\frac{1}{1 + \omega^2 C_t^2 R_t^2}\right) \quad (2.6)$$

$$R_t = \frac{1}{\left(\frac{1}{200\text{K}\Omega} + \frac{1}{200\text{K}\Omega} + \frac{1}{R_d} + \frac{1}{R_b}\right)} \quad (2.7)$$

where  $s_{vg}$  is the spectral density of the noise generator output voltage,  $R_n$  is the equivalent noise resistance of the low noise preamplifier,  $R_d$  is the diode dynamic resistance,  $R_b$  is the bias resistance,  $C_t$  is the total input capacitance,  $\text{dB}_{\text{att}}$  is the attenuator setting, and  $\Delta \text{dB}$  is the difference in dB between the calibration plus diode noise level, and the diode noise level alone. This calculation was carried out for each filter, and the final results were averaged over all filters processing a white noise spectrum. Typically,

this resulted in averaging over the 25 filters of center frequencies greater than 250 Hz.

The system accuracy was verified by measuring the thermal noise of resistors. When resistors of  $200 \Omega$  to  $2 M\Omega$  were inserted in place of a diode, and the above measurement procedure was repeated, the resistance values predicted from noise measurements agreed to better than 2% with values obtained from precision bridge measurements.

Since the low noise preamplifier employed a JFET for the first stage, it sensed the voltage, rather than the current, at its input terminals. Consequently, the diode noise current was converted to a noise voltage by the diode dynamic impedance before the noise signal was amplified. The diode dynamic impedance, therefore, had to be determined, and was measured using the diode bias network, capacitively coupled to a Wayne Kerr B601 Radio Frequency Bridge utilizing a Wayne Kerr SR 268 Source & Detector, as shown in Figure 8. The 100 KHz signal applied by the bridge to the diode was adjusted until further signal level reduction produced no difference in the measured RC values. This typically occurred for applied signal levels of less than 40 mV RMS. The parallel equivalent RC values of the diode and its bias network were thus determined to an accuracy of  $\pm 1\%$ .

The capacitance values determined above were also employed in the C-V plots used in estimating the junction doping profiles and doping densities. The diode areas were obtained from junction photographs taken after the aluminum

button was etched away in phosphoric acid. The error in determining the junction area in this manner was estimated to be about 15%.

A typical junction surface is shown in Figure 9. Although the surface is full of ridges, it is assumed that the junctions are very nearly planar because they are extremely thin. On the scale of the several hundred angstrom thin space charge regions (SCR), the ridge contours should appear as gentle undulations in the junction topology.

The DC V-I measurements were made using the test setup shown in Figure 10. It consisted of the diode bias network, a Keithley Model 615 Digital Electrometer operating as an ammeter, and a Fluke Model 801B Differential Voltmeter. The accuracy of the DC measurements was  $\pm 0.5\%$  for currents greater than  $10^{-7}$  amperes, and  $\pm 2\%$  for currents between  $10^{-7}$  and  $10^{-9}$  amperes. Voltage measurements were accurate to  $\pm 0.05\%$ .

All measurements were taken at room temperature,  $22 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ .

CHAPTER III  
DISCUSSION OF EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

In order to make the forthcoming discussions of noise and DC V-I measurements meaningful, it is necessary to know the junction properties and parameters. Some of them can be inferred from the  $\frac{1}{C^2}$  vs.  $V_r$  plots for the four most important diodes, the 1N749 to 1N752, shown in Figures 11 to 14.

Since the  $\frac{1}{C^2}$  vs.  $V_r$  plots do not yield straight lines over the entire range of reverse voltages, it appears that the junctions are not abrupt. Unfortunately,  $\frac{1}{C^3}$  vs.  $V_r$  plots do not yield straight lines, either. Consequently, it seems that the junction profiles are composite of linearly graded and abrupt. If it is assumed, however, that to a first order approximation the diodes can be treated as step junctions (provided that the doping densities are evaluated from  $\frac{1}{C^2}$  vs.  $V_r$  slopes obtained for large reverse biases, where the doping densities are most likely to be representative of the bulk doping densities) the results of Table I are obtained.

The calculated doping densities on the n-side of the junctions are seen to lie within the range of doping densities predicted from the starting resistivities of

TABLE I

## DIODE PARAMETERS

DIODE TYPE	DOPING DENSITY ON P-SIDE (a)	RESISTIVITY OF N-TYPE WAFER (b)	DOPING DENSITY ON N-SIDE (b)	CALCULATED DOPING DENSITY ON N-SIDE (c)	BUILT-IN POTENTIAL (d)	PEAK ELECTRIC FIELD (e)	JUNCTION WIDTH (g)	(h)
1N749	9	0.012 - 0.014	2.8 - 3.6	2.85	1.0	1.02	1.35	4.83 4.48
1N750	9	0.014 - 0.016	2.2 - 2.8	2.12	1.0	1.01	1.26	558 4.90
1N751	9	0.016 - 0.018	1.75 - 2.2	2.02	1.04	1.01	1.24	556 500
1N752	9	0.018 - 0.021	1.3 - 1.75	1.75	1.0	1.01	1.17	580 526
	$\times 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$	ohm-cm	$\times 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$	$\times 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-3}$	volts	$\times 10^6 \text{ volt/cm}$	$\text{\AA}$	

(a) Logan (1969)

(b) Don Estreich, Teledyne Semiconductor,  
personal communication(c) from  $\frac{1}{C^2}$  vs.  $V_r$  plots and depletion  
approximation(d) from  $\frac{1}{C^2}$  vs.  $V_r$  intercept  
(e) calculated from doping densities  
(f) calculated for step junction @  $V_r = 2.0$  volts  
(g) calculated from capacitance data @  $V_r = 2.0$  volts  
(h) calculated for step junction @  $V_r = 2.0$  volts

the n-type wafers. This seems to indicate that for reverse voltages greater than about 1.5 to 2 volts, the doping densities at the junction edges attain the bulk doping densities, and the junctions should begin to assume step junction characteristics. The changes in the  $\frac{1}{C^2}$  vs.  $V_r$  slopes for smaller reverse biases are caused by the extreme thinness of the diode SCR's: as the reverse biases decrease, the SCR's narrow and enter the diode metallurgical transition regions where the doping densities are no longer constant.

However, demonstrating that the doping densities at junction edges reach bulk doping densities does not conclusively prove that for  $V_r$  greater than 1.5 to 2 volts the junctions may be approximated by step junctions. Another piece of evidence which strengthens this contention, though, will be obtained when the DC V-I characteristics are examined. This discussion will be most meaningful after the noise measurements are examined.

The typical noise data obtained for diodes 1N746 to 1N752 are shown in Figures 15 to 21. The diode noise current spectral density,  $S_{id}$ , has been normalized with respect to the noise current spectral density of a saturated thermionic diode conducting a DC current equal to the p-n junction reverse current. The noise ratio, NR, is, therefore, given by

$$NR = \frac{S_{id}}{2qI_r} \quad (3.1)$$

where  $I_r$  is the p-n junction reverse current.

Since the noise current of a saturated thermionic diode arises from the reception at the anode of all individually, and randomly emitted, thermally excited cathode electrons, a noise ratio of unity indicates that the p-n diode reverse current is also due to collection of randomly and singly generated carriers, or carrier pairs. This is precisely what happens when the p-n junction reverse current arises from internal field emission in which thermally excited valence band electrons tunnel to the conduction band. The noise measurements thus furnish a foolproof method of determining the range of reverse voltages for which the diode reverse conduction arises from a single step tunneling process. (A few samples exhibiting multi-step tunneling were also observed. They are characterized by a noise ratio less than unity (van der Ziel, personal communication), as shown in Figures 21a and 21b. These samples, however, exhibited substantially greater  $\frac{1}{f}$  noise than the remaining samples and, therefore, were excluded from further study.)

An independent method of verifying that over the range of reverse voltages for which the noise ratio is unity the reverse current arises from single step tunneling is obtained from the laws of internal field emission.

Chynoweth et al. (1960) and Tyagi (1968) found that for a phonon-assisted tunneling process the diode reverse current is given by

$$I_r = A V_r^n E^n e^{-\left(\frac{\gamma E}{E}\right)^{3/2}} ; \gamma = \frac{4\sqrt{2m_e^*}}{3q\hbar} \quad (3.2)$$

where  $I_r$  is the diode reverse current,  $V_r$  is the diode reverse voltage,  $A$  is a constant for a given temperature,  $E$  is the electric field,  $E_g$  is the band gap energy,  $m_e^*$  is the effective mass of tunneling electrons,  $q$  is the electronic charge,  $\hbar = \frac{h}{2\pi}$ , where  $h$  is the Planck constant, and  $n$  and  $n$  are constants. The factor  $e^{-\left(\frac{\gamma E}{E}\right)^{3/2}}$  represents the phonon-assisted tunneling probability,  $E^n$  accounts for image fields or Coulombic forces corrections included in the theory, and  $V_r^n$  takes into account, in an empirical way, the effect of electron tunneling from the conduction band back to the valence band so that for zero reverse bias the net current,  $I_r$ , is also zero. For abrupt junctions Tyagi claims  $n=1$ ,  $n=1.5$ .

$$- \left(\frac{\gamma E}{E}\right)^{3/2}$$

Compared to  $e^{-\left(\frac{\gamma E}{E}\right)^{3/2}}$ ,  $A V_r^n E^n$  is a slow varying function of the reverse voltage so that the reverse current may be written as

$$I_r = I_0 e^{-\frac{s}{E}} \quad (3.3)$$

where  $I_0$  and  $s'$  are considered constant provided  $V_r \neq 0$ , and  $E$  is an "effective" electric field such that

$$e^{-\frac{s'}{E}} = \int_0^w e^{-\frac{s'}{E(x)}} dx \quad (3.4)$$

where the integration extends over the entire width of the diode space charge region,  $w$ . For an abrupt junction the main contribution to the integral comes from electric field values close to the maximum electric field value,  $E_m$ . Thus, little error is made in assuming that the "effective" electric field is given by  $E_m$ . Consequently, for an abrupt junction

$$I_r = I_0 e^{-\frac{s}{\sqrt{V_r + \phi}}} \quad (3.5)$$

where  $s$  is a constant and  $\phi$  is the built-in potential of the junction. Thus, if a junction is indeed abrupt and the reverse current is due to tunneling,  $\log I_r$  vs.  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{V_r + \phi}}$

should give a straight line.

Inspection of Figures 22 to 28, which show  $\log I_r$  vs.  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{V_r + \phi}}$  for diodes 1N746 to 1N752, reveals that over the range of reverse voltages for which the noise ratio is unity,  $\log I_r$  vs.  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{V_r + \phi}}$  is, indeed, a straight line. The DC V-I data and the noise data are, therefore, consistent, and the contention that the junctions may, to a first order approximation, be considered abrupt is further strengthened.

If the randomly emitted tunneling electrons undergo multiplication due to impact ionization, the randomness of the multiplication process generates additional noise, and the noise ratio becomes greater than unity. Comparison of Figures 15 to 21 with Figures 22 to 28 reveals that over the range of voltages for which the noise ratio increases from unity,  $\log I_r$  increasingly departs from the straight line it followed at lower reverse voltages. This suggests that the failure of the reverse current to obey the tunneling relation is due to impact ionization multiplication of the tunneling current.

If this contention is indeed correct, then it should be possible to verify it quantitatively with the help of noise theories of Tager (1965) or McIntyre (1966) relating the spectral density of noise current generated in impact ionization multiplication to the terminal DC current flowing through the diode. According to Tager, the low frequency spectral density of noise current produced in an impact ionization multiplication process in which the electrons and holes have the same ionization coefficients, is given by

$$S_i = 2qI_t (M')^3 \quad (3.6)$$

where  $I_t$  is the current initiating the multiplication process, which in this case is the tunneling current, and  $M'$  is the DC current multiplication factor, defined by

$$M' = \frac{I_r}{I_t} \quad (3.7)$$

where  $I_r$  is the terminal reverse current flowing through the diode. Thus, if it is assumed that the expression for tunneling current remains valid in the presence of impact ionization multiplication (which, in light of the current densities encountered, is a very reasonable assumption) then  $M'$  is simply the ratio of the measured value of reverse current to the extrapolated value of the tunneling current.

Thus, if

$$\log \frac{S_{id}}{2qI_t} = \log \left[ \frac{2qI_t M' (\text{NR})}{2qI_t} \right] = \log [M' (\text{NR})] \quad (3.8)$$

is plotted vs.  $\log M'$ , as done in Figures 29 to 32 for diodes 1N749 to 1N752, a straight line with a slope of three should be obtained. It is clear that, with the exception of the 1N752 diode for which the agreement between experimental results and theory is reasonable, considerable discrepancies exist. Moreover, the discrepancies are serious because the measured values of  $\frac{S_{id}}{2qI_t}$  are larger than the theoretical one, which represents the upper limit attainable in impact ionization multiplication for which electrons and holes have the same ionization coefficient. In addition, at low values of multiplication the rate of increase of  $\frac{S_{id}}{2qI_t}$  also exceeds the

theoretical, and, therefore, the upper limit value.

At this point it might be argued that these discrepancies arise from the unequal ionization rates of electrons and holes in silicon. However, if the latest ionization rate data of van Overstraeten and de Man (1970), shown in Figure 33, are extrapolated to the field strengths encountered in diodes used in this study, the extrapolated electron ionization rates are not substantially greater than the extrapolated hole ionization rates.

For the sake of completeness, however, the noise data was also analyzed in terms of McIntyre's (1966) theory of noise current spectral density for impact ionization multiplication in diodes for which the electron and hole ionization rates are not equal. According to McIntyre, if the carriers initiating the multiplication are electrons, the low frequency noise current spectral density is given by

$$S_i = 2qI_t (M')^3 [1 - (1-k) \left( \frac{M' - 1}{M'} \right)^2] \quad (3.9)$$

where  $I_t$  is the electron current initiating the multiplication, which in this case is the tunneling current,  $k = \frac{\beta}{\alpha}$  is the ratio of the hole ionization rate,  $\beta$ , to the electron ionization rate,  $\alpha$ , and  $M'$  is the DC current multiplication

factor,  $M' = \frac{I}{I_t}$ . Since  $\beta$  and  $\alpha$  depend strongly on the electric field, this equation is strictly correct only if an appropriate "average" value of  $k$  is used (McIntyre, 1973).

However, for the purposes of this discussion this is not an important consideration.

According to McIntyre's (1966) theory,  $\frac{S_i}{2qI_t}$  is given by

$$\frac{S_i}{2qI_t} = (M')^3 [1 - (1-k) \left( \frac{M' - 1}{M} \right)^2] \quad (3.10)$$

which is plotted for several values of  $k$  in Figure 34.

Comparison of Figure 34 with the experimental values of

$\frac{S_{id}}{2qI_t}$  of Figures 29 to 31 indicates that a closer agreement between theory and experiment could be obtained only if the hole ionization rate were substantially larger than the electron ionization rate. In light of the measured and extrapolated values of ionization rates of Figure 33 this, however, does not seem very likely.

Moreover, it will be shown in Chapter V that if the measured and extrapolated values of ionization rates of Figure 33 are used in the conventional calculations of DC multiplication, the results obtained indicate that multiplication should occur for any non-zero value of reverse bias. This implies that the noise ratio should be greater than unity for all non-zero values of reverse voltage, which is in direct contradiction with the experimental data of Figures 15 to 21.

The existing theories are, therefore, in serious difficulty: they either fail to correctly predict the

magnitude and functional dependence of  $\frac{S_{id}}{2qI_t}$  on  $M'$ , or require an unreasonable ratio of ionization rates to possibly achieve an acceptable agreement of theory and experiment; they fail to correctly predict the magnitude of the experimentally observed DC multiplication; and they completely fail to predict the existence of a reverse voltage threshold for the onset of impact ionization multiplication. Any theory of reverse breakdown transition from tunneling to impact ionization multiplication must be able to eliminate all of these discrepancies, while remaining consistent with all other observations of breakdown phenomena in silicon p-n junctions.

One of these observations, made by many workers investigating carrier multiplication in semiconductors, is the existence of an energy threshold for pair production (Shockley, 1961; Moll and van Overstraeten, 1963): the agent attempting to generate a carrier pair must be capable of supplying at least a certain minimum amount of energy if it is to succeed in producing a hole-electron pair. The latest values of threshold energies for impact ionization in silicon, as determined in ionization rate measurements and first reported by Moll and van Overstraeten (1963), are  $1.8 \pm 0.1$  eV for electrons and  $2.4 \pm 0.1$  eV for holes.

Since the noise data of Figures 15 to 21 indicate that carrier multiplication, as judged from the departure

of the noise ratio from unity, always sets in at a well-defined value of reverse voltage that is almost independent of the diode breakdown voltage (if the breakdown voltage is defined as that value of reverse bias which gives rise to some constant value of reverse current density), the author contends that the onset of multiplication is governed by the magnitude of the threshold energy for ionization.

To substantiate this contention quantitatively, the following multiplication threshold model, described in terms of Figure 35, which shows the electric field and energy band diagrams for a reverse biased abrupt p-n junction, is proposed. Since the tunneling probability is strongly dependent on the electric field, most of the tunneling current originates at  $x=0$ . At  $x=x_1$  the tunneling electrons become free carriers, absorbing  $1.12\pm E_r$  eV, where  $\pm E_r$  corresponds to the emission or absorption of one phonon whose energy may be 17.9 meV (TA), 43.7 meV (LA), 53.2 meV (LO), or 58.5 meV (TO), (Logan, 1969). Continuing towards  $x_2$  the electrons acquire energy from the electric field, and at  $x_2$  those which have made the fewest number of collisions with the lattice are sufficiently energetic to participate in ionizing collisions. The onset of impact ionization multiplication, therefore, occurs when  $x_2=x_n$ . Denoting the reverse voltage at which this occurs by  $V_{rth}$ , the abrupt junction approximation yields

$$\frac{x_n}{x_n + x_p} = \frac{(1.12 \pm E_r) + (1.8 \pm 0.1)}{V_{rth} + \phi} \quad (3.11)$$

where

$$\frac{x_n}{x_n + x_p} = \frac{N_A - N_D}{N_A} \quad . \quad (3.12)$$

Consequently,

$$V_{rth} = [(1.12 \pm E_r) + (1.8 \pm 0.1)] \left( \frac{N_A}{N_A - N_D} \right) - \phi \quad . \quad (3.13)$$

Table II compares the reverse threshold voltages,  $V_{rth}$ , computed using the doping densities of Table I and  $E_r = 0.06$  eV, with the reverse threshold voltages obtained from Figures 18 to 21. In light of the approximations made and the experimental uncertainties involved in determining the doping densities, they are in good agreement.

The holes produced in ionizing collisions between  $x_2$  and  $x_n$  travel in opposite direction, but they, too, ionize only after they have acquired at least the necessary threshold energy for ionization. The electrons produced in hole ionizing collisions then travel towards  $x_n$ , and after acquiring at least  $1.8 \pm 0.1$  eV participate in more ionizing collisions. This process repeats itself, but since the number of ionizing collisions decreases with each successive set of ionizations, the process converges to a finite value of DC multiplication.

TABLE II

REVERSE VOLTAGES AT THE ONSET OF  
IMPACT IONIZATION MULTIPLICATION:  
COMPARISON OF DATA WITH THEORY

DIODE TYPE	EXPERIMENTAL REVERSE THRESHOLD VOLTAGE	COMPUTED REVERSE THRESHOLD VOLTAGE
1N749	2.65±0.1 V	2.99 - 3.45 V
1N750	2.7±0.15 V	2.39 - 2.78 V
1N751	2.7±0.15 V	2.31 - 2.71 V
1N752	2.7±0.15 V	2.27 - 2.65 V

In light of this model it is not difficult to see why the existing theories could not explain the experimental data: none of the theories take the influence of the threshold energies for ionization explicitly into account. The DC multiplication, which will be discussed in more detail in Chapter V, has conventionally been calculated by integrating the ionization rates  $\alpha(x)$  and  $\beta(x)$  over the junction SCR in accordance with the solution of the differential equation

$$-\frac{dJ_p(x)}{dx} = \frac{dJ_n(x)}{dx} = \alpha(x)J_n(x) + \beta(x)J_p(x) \quad (3.14)$$

modeling the process (Moll and van Overstraeten, 1963; Lee et al., 1964; van Overstraeten and de Man, 1970).  $J_n(x)$  and  $J_p(x)$  denote, respectively, the electron and hole current densities as a function of position in the junction SCR. This equation does not explicitly consider the effect of threshold energies on the multiplication process because it claims that the differential increase in current densities at point  $x$  is proportional to the current densities at point  $x$ , which does not take into account a "distance delay" over which the carriers are incapable of ionizing because they are acquiring the necessary threshold energy. For diodes which break down at several hundred volts of reverse bias this "distance delay" is very small in comparison to the width of the

junction SCR, and the approximation involved in neglecting it is very good. For diodes breaking down at several volts of reverse bias, on the other hand, the "distance delay" could constitute the entire width of the diode SCR. The approximation of neglecting it in such cases and employing equation 3.14 is totally unacceptable - it leads to calculation of finite DC multiplication when no multiplication is experimentally observed.

Application of conventional calculations of DC multiplication to very low breakdown voltage diodes thus leads to the conclusion that multiplication must be taking place in these junctions because the electric fields in them are very strong. The author, on the other hand, contends that if the electric fields in these junctions are very strong, multiplication will occur, but only if the carrier energies exceed the threshold energies for ionization. This is precisely why no impact ionization multiplication occurs in tunnel diodes, in spite of the extremely strong electric fields existing in these junctions.

Because McIntyre's theory of noise in avalanche diodes employs equation 3.14 in its derivation, it is now clear why his theory is not capable of predicting the multiplication noise in diodes employed in this study. Moreover, Tager's theory is also unacceptable because it does not incorporate in its derivation an upper limit on the number of ionizing collisions a carrier can undergo

in its transit across the diode SCR. Such a limit must be imposed if threshold energies for ionization are taken into account.

Not explicitly incorporating the influence of the threshold energies for ionization in the existing theories of noise and DC multiplication, therefore, renders them inapplicable to the diodes employed in this study. The next two chapters will attempt to resolve these difficulties.

CHAPTER IV  
DETAILED ANALYSIS OF NOISE DATA

Figures 29 to 32 indicate that if the DC multiplication factor,  $M'$ , is defined conventionally by

$$M' = \frac{I_r}{I_t} \quad (4.1)$$

it is impossible to obtain a unique slope which would define the exponent,  $x$ , in Tager's (1965) expression for the low frequency noise current spectral density

$$S_i = 2qI_t (M')^x \quad . \quad (4.2)$$

The author suspected that this difficulty arose because the DC multiplication factor was not appropriately defined. This can be seen most clearly when  $M' = 1$ , which is perfectly acceptable mathematically, but is physically meaningless, for a multiplication factor of unity means that there is no carrier multiplication. Thus, it was the author's contention that the DC multiplication factor should be defined by

$$I_r = I_t + M I_t \quad , \quad \text{or} \quad (4.3)$$

$$M = \frac{I_r}{I_t} - 1 \quad . \quad (4.4)$$

This definition reduces to the conventional one for large values of  $M$ , but is more appealing physically for it allows  $M$  to go to zero when there is no carrier multiplication. However, if  $M$  is defined by  $M = (I_r/I_t) - 1$ , the expression for the noise current spectral density has to be reformulated, for consistency, to

$$S_i = 2qI_t[1+f(M)] \quad (4.5)$$

where  $f(M)$  goes to zero when  $M$  goes to zero.

The results of plotting  $f(M)$  vs.  $M$  for diodes 1N749 to 1N752 are shown in Figures 36 to 39. These graphs contain several interesting features. First, even though all data points do not lie on one straight line, it is possible to fit most of them along two or three straight lines, the slopes of which increase monotonically with increasing reverse voltages. Second, the departures of data points from lines of lower slopes to lines of higher slopes occur for all diodes at roughly the same (although somewhat increasing) value of reverse voltage. The values of reverse voltages at which these transitions set in, as defined, whenever possible, by the intersection of the two slopes, are:

Diode type	Onset of 1st transition	Onset of 2nd transition
1N749	3.95 V	4.35 V
1N750	4.1 V	4.65 V
1N751	4.4 V	4.95 V
1N752	4.7 V	5.1 V

Finally, even though the slope of any line tangent to the data points does not exceed its maximum allowed value of three, as did the tangents to the data points of Figures 36 to 39, it is now possible to draw tangent lines whose slopes approach unity -- which appears to contradict the established results that, according to the old definitions, the values of the slopes should never be less than two.

All of these observations can be understood in terms of the conduction model incorporating the carrier threshold energy for ionization, as proposed in the preceding chapter. Since the amount of noise produced in impact ionization multiplication increases as the maximum number of ionizing collisions per carrier transit across the SCR increases, and eventually approaches the upper limit value given by Tager's (1965) expression for the case of unlimited number of ionizing collisions on a carrier transit across the SCR, the breaks in the straight lines in Figures 36 to 39 and the monotonic increase in slopes are indicative of transitions from a lower to a higher maximum number of ionizing collisions that a carrier can undergo in a transit across the diode SCR. In particular, if the built-in voltage of the junctions is taken into account, and an electron threshold energy of  $1.8 \pm 0.1$  eV is assumed, as given by Moll and van Overstraeten (1963), then it becomes clear that the onset of the first break in the slopes of Figures 36 to 39 is due to a transition from a maximum of two to a maximum of

three ionizing collisions per electron transit across the diode SCR. This is easily verified by dividing  $1.8 \pm 0.1$  eV into the total diode potential, the sum of the built-in potential listed in Table 1, and the potential at the onset of the first slope transition, listed above.

The results are:

Diode type	Total potential divided by $1.8 \pm 0.1$ eV
1N749	2.92 - 2.62
1N750	3.01 - 2.69
1N751	3.19 - 2.85
1N752	3.36 - 3.01

When the procedure is reversed and the total potential at the onset of the first slope transition is divided by three, the following electron threshold energies for ionization are obtained:

Diode type	Electron threshold energy for ionization
1N749	1.66 eV
1N750	1.7 eV
1N751	1.8 eV
1N752	1.9 eV

This is in excellent agreement with Moll and van Overstraeten's (1963) value of  $1.8 \pm 0.1$  eV. The apparent increase in the threshold energy for ionization with increasing diode breakdown voltage is also reasonable. Both Moll and van Overstraeten's (1963) and these values include the "intrinsic" threshold energy as well as energy lost in

phonon collisions. Since the rate of energy acquisition with distance is smaller in higher voltage breakdown diodes (the electric fields are weaker), but the rate of energy losses is the same (because it depends on mean free path between phonon collisions, which, presumably, is not strongly dependent on field strength), it can be expected that an increasingly larger number of phonon collisions would occur between successive ionizations, resulting in increasingly higher observed threshold energies in higher breakdown voltage diodes.

An analogous analysis can be made for the second slope transition in Figures 36 to 39. Since the threshold energy for ionization for holes is, according to Moll and van Overstraeten (1963), greater than the threshold energy for ionization for electrons, the second slope transition may be suspected to arise from a transition from a maximum of two to a maximum of three ionizing collisions per hole transit across the diode SCR. When the total potential at the onset of the second slope transition is divided by three, the following values of threshold energy for ionization for holes are obtained:

Diode type	Hole threshold energy for ionization
1N749	1.79 eV
1N750	1.89 eV
1N751	1.99 eV
1N752	2.04 eV

These values are considerably smaller than the  $2.4 \pm 0.1$  eV obtained by Moll and van Overstraeten (1963). Thus it may be suspected that the second slope transition is due to a transition from a maximum of one to a maximum of two ionizing collisions per hole transit across the SCR. This, however, results in hole threshold energies that are substantially higher than those given by Moll and van Overstraeten (1963):

Diode type	Hole threshold energy for ionization (assuming transition from a maximum of one to a maximum of two ionizations per transit)
1N749	2.69 eV
1N750	2.84 eV
1N751	2.99 eV
1N752	3.06 eV

Moreover, if the hole threshold energies obtained under this assumption are used in the simulation of DC multiplication, a serious difficulty arises which does not occur when the hole threshold energy of  $1.9 \pm 0.15$  eV is used. As a consequence, it is suggested that the value of  $2.4 \pm 0.1$  eV is probably too high.

An immediate application of this interpretation of noise data can be made in conjunction with the conduction model proposed in the preceding chapter and the  $\frac{1}{C^2}$  vs.  $V$  data to compute the doping densities on the n and p sides of the junctions. With the help of Figure 35, the analysis proceeds as follows. At the onset of impact ionization multiplication

$$\frac{V_g + V_e}{V_{rth}} = \frac{N_A - N_D}{N_A} \quad (4.6)$$

where  $V_g = E_g/q$ ,  $V_e = E_e/q$  and  $E_g$  is the bandgap energy and  $E_e$  is the electron threshold energy for ionization.

Moreover, from  $\frac{1}{C^2}$  vs.  $V$  data

$$\frac{(N_A - N_D)N_D}{N_A} = \frac{2}{\varepsilon_r \varepsilon_0 q} \left( \frac{\Delta V}{\frac{1}{C^2}} \right) = P \quad (4.7)$$

Therefore,

$$N_D = \frac{PV_{rth}}{V_g + V_e} \quad (4.8)$$

Moreover,

$$N_A = \frac{N_D^2}{N_D - P} \quad , \text{ or} \quad (4.9)$$

$$N_A = \frac{PV_{rth}^2}{V_{rth}(V_g + V_e) - (V_g + V_e)^2} \quad (4.10)$$

Since  $\frac{\Delta V}{\frac{1}{C^2}}$  and, therefore,  $P$ , can be determined from the  $\frac{1}{C^2}$  vs  $V$  data, and  $V_{rth}$  and  $V_e$  can be determined from the noise data,

$N_D$  and  $N_A$  can be calculated. A comparison of  $N_D$  and  $N_A$  obtained in this manner with the values of  $N_D$  and  $N_A$  given in Table I is shown in Table III. The agreement is quite good, which lends further credence to the proposed conduction model and the subsequent interpretation of noise data.

DIODE TYPE	N <sub>D</sub> FROM WAFER	RESISTIVITY *	DOPING DENSITIES		N <sub>D</sub> ASSUMING N <sub>A</sub> = 9x10 <sup>18</sup> cm <sup>-3</sup> **
			FROM NOISE DATA	N <sub>D</sub>	
1N749	2.8 - 3.6		10.14	2.63	2.85
1N750	2.2 - 2.8		8.91	2.13	2.12
1N751	1.75 - 2.2		9.37	1.99	2.02
1N752	1.3 - 1.75 x10 <sup>18</sup> cm <sup>-3</sup>		9.34	1.73	1.75 x10 <sup>18</sup> cm <sup>-3</sup>

\* Don Estreich, Teledyne Semiconductor, personal communication

\*\* Logan (1969)

Moreover, if the proposed conduction model is truly valid, then a suitable derivation incorporating the essential features of the model should yield expressions for the magnitude of the noise current spectral density which should be in good agreement with experimentally observed results. From the point of view of noise as a statistical fluctuation phenomenon, the most important feature of the proposed conduction model is the limit it imposes on the maximum number of ionizing collisions a carrier can experience in one transit across the diode SCR. Consequently, any derivation of the noise current spectral density must incorporate this constraint. This complicates the problem considerably for it requires that the multiplication process be examined on basis of individual, successive transits of carriers across the diode SCR, rather than on monitoring the end product of the multiplication process at the device terminals, as was done by Tager (1965) and McIntyre (1966).

To obtain some insight into how the analysis of multiple ionizing collisions might be carried out, the author began by considering the limiting case of a maximum of one ionizing collision per carrier transit across the diode SCR. This is more than just an exercise. According to the author's interpretation of Figures 36 to 38, about half of the data points correspond to multiplication resulting from no more than two ionizing collisions per carrier transit across the SCR. Moreover, even when up to two ionizing collisions are energetically possible, the probability of

the second collision will be considerably smaller than the probability of the first collision because the space charge regions of the diodes examined in this study are very narrow, whereas the mean free path between ionizing collisions, as quoted by previous workers (Moll and van Overstraeten, 1963; Lee et al., 1964) is relatively large. Thus the approximation of no more than one ionizing collision per carrier transit across the diode SCR should yield reasonable results, especially for the case of the diode with the narrowest SCR, the 1N749.

The analysis of the noise current spectral density is best carried out by referring to Figure 35. The tunneling electrons, originating at  $x=0$  at the rate of  $n_0$  per second, are accelerated from  $x=x_1$  to  $x=x_2$ , and undergo ionizing collisions from  $x=x_2$  to  $x=x_n$ , producing  $n_1$  electron-hole pairs. The  $n_0$  tunneling electrons and the  $n_1$  ionization produced electrons are swept to the right and out of the SCR. The  $n_1$  holes travel to the left and, after acquiring the necessary threshold energy, undergo ionizing collisions, producing  $n_2$  electron-hole pairs. The  $(n_1+n_2)$  holes are then swept to the left and out of the SCR, while the  $n_2$  electrons travel to the right and, after acquiring the necessary threshold energy, ionize, producing  $n_3$  electron-hole pairs. This process continues, so that the total number of carriers,  $N$ , collected at the device terminals becomes

$$N = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} n_i \quad . \quad (4.11)$$

Letting  $\bar{n}_1 = \bar{a}_1 \bar{n}_0$ ,  $\bar{n}_2 = \bar{b}_2 \bar{n}_1 = \bar{b}_2 \bar{a}_1 \bar{n}_0$ ,  $\bar{n}_3 = \bar{a}_3 \bar{n}_2 = \bar{a}_3 \bar{b}_2 \bar{a}_1 \bar{n}_0$ , etc., where the  $\bar{\phantom{a}}$  denotes averages and  $\bar{a}_i$  and  $\bar{b}_i$  represent the probability of ionization for electrons and holes, respectively, on the  $i$ -th transit across the diode SCR,

$$\bar{N} = \bar{n}_0 \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \prod_{j=0}^i \bar{a}_j \text{ odd } \bar{b}_j \text{ even} ; \bar{a}_0 \equiv 1, \bar{b}_0 \equiv 1 . \quad (4.12)$$

This converges to a finite number because  $\bar{a}_i < 1$  and  $\bar{b}_i < 1$  since no more than one ionizing collision per carrier transit across the SCR is allowed. A reasonable simplification which can be made at this point is that  $\bar{a}_i = \bar{a}$  and  $\bar{b}_i = \bar{b}$ . This means that the probability of ionization differs for holes and electrons, but remains the same on all transits. In this case,

$$\begin{aligned} N &= \bar{n}_0 (1 + \bar{a} + \bar{a}\bar{b} + \bar{a}^2\bar{b} + \bar{a}^2\bar{b}^2 + \dots) \\ &= \bar{n}_0 \left( \frac{1 + \bar{a}}{1 - \bar{a}\bar{b}} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (4.13)$$

and the DC multiplication factor,  $M = \frac{\bar{N}}{\bar{n}_0} - 1$ , becomes

$$M = \frac{\bar{a}(1 + \bar{b})}{1 - \bar{a}\bar{b}} \quad . \quad (4.14)$$

The low frequency spectrum of the current fluctuations resulting from the multiplication process can be obtained from

$$S_N = 2\text{var } N \quad (4.15)$$

where  $S_N$  denotes the magnitude of the spectrum of  $N$ , the number of events occurring during a unit time interval (van der Ziel, 1970). Since the diode current,  $I_r$ , is given by  $I_r = qN$ ,

$$S_{I_r} = 2q^2 \text{var } N \quad (4.16)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \text{var } N &= \overline{N^2} - \bar{N}^2 \\ &= \overline{\left(\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} n_i\right)^2} - \overline{\left(\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} n_i\right)}^2 \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (\bar{n_i n_j} - \bar{n_i} \bar{n_j}) \quad . \end{aligned} \quad (4.17)$$

In order to evaluate  $S_{I_r}$  it, therefore, remains to evaluate  $\bar{n_i n_j}$ . This is accomplished by representing  $n_i$  by

$$n_i = \sum_{r=1}^{n_0} a_{1r} b_{2r} a_{3r} b_{4r} \dots \begin{cases} b_{ir}; & i \text{ even} \\ a_{ir}; & i \text{ odd} \end{cases} \quad (4.18)$$

where  $a_{jr}$  and  $b_{mr}$  are either 1 or 0 (depending on whether or not an electron or hole ionizes on the  $j$ -th or  $m$ -th transit across the SCR) and ensemble averaging over the products  $n_i n_j$ . This analysis is discussed in detail in Appendix A. The resulting expression for  $\text{var } N$  is given by

$$\text{var } N = n_0 \left\{ \frac{1 + 3\bar{a} + 3\bar{a}\bar{b} + \bar{a}^2\bar{b}}{(1 - \bar{a}\bar{b})^2} \right\} \quad (4.19)$$

and, therefore,

$$S_{I_r} = 2q^2 n_0 \left\{ \frac{1+3\bar{a}+3\bar{a}\bar{b}+\bar{a}^2\bar{b}}{(1-\bar{a}\bar{b})^2} \right\}$$
$$= 2qI_t \left\{ \frac{1+3\bar{a}+3\bar{a}\bar{b}+\bar{a}^2\bar{b}}{(1-\bar{a}\bar{b})^2} \right\} . \quad (4.20)$$

If, for the moment, it is assumed that the probability of ionization is the same for holes as it is for electrons,  $\bar{a}=\bar{b}$ , then

$$M = \frac{\bar{a}}{1-\bar{a}} \quad (4.21)$$

and

$$S_{I_r} = 2qI_t \frac{(1+\bar{a})}{(1-\bar{a})^2} . \quad (4.22)$$

Eliminating  $\bar{a}$ ,

$$S_{I_r} = 2qI_t (1+3M+2M^2) \quad (4.23)$$

which is, indeed, in the previously postulated form

$$S_{I_r} = 2qI_t [1+f(M)] . \quad (4.24)$$

This result provides a more formal justification of the previously proposed redefinitions of the DC multiplication factor and the functional form of  $S_i$ , and lends greater credence to the interpretation of noise data based on the new definitions.

When equation 4.20 is rewritten in the form

$$S_{I_r} = 2qI_t [1+f(\bar{a}, \bar{b})] \quad (4.25)$$

and  $f(\bar{a}, \bar{b})$  is plotted as a function of  $M$  for various values of  $k = \frac{\bar{b}}{\bar{a}}$ , Figure 40 is obtained, which contains the somewhat surprising result that  $f(\bar{a}, \bar{b})$  is rather weakly dependent on  $k$ . This result is exploited in the derivation of the magnitude of the noise current spectral density for the case of up to two ionizations per carrier transit across the diode SCR. Moreover, since

$$S_{I_r} = 2qI_t [1+f(\bar{a}, \bar{b})] \approx 2qI_t (1+3M+2M^2) \quad (4.26)$$

over a fairly wide range of  $k = \frac{\bar{b}}{\bar{a}}$  for low values of  $M$ , it demonstrates that the slope of  $f(M)$  vs.  $M$  can, indeed, approach unity, as it does for the data of Figure 36.

To compare the results of this analysis with experiment, Figure 41 shows, along with  $f(M) = 3M+2M^2$  plotted versus  $M$ , the experimental data for the 1N749 diode. Although the theoretical curve shows the same functional dependence on  $M$  as do the experimental data, it is about a factor of three too low. However, in view of the fact that the derivation of the theory is strictly statistical, taking no account of any junction parameters, this result was most encouraging.

At this point the author suspected that the discrepancy between theory and data resulted from dismissing the possibility

of the second and third ionizations, and proceeded to extend the theory to more than one ionization per carrier transit across the SCR. Although this is easily done in principle, it becomes extremely tedious algebraically because the analysis must take into account the various branching possibilities, and the correlation between the branches. In fact, the extension of the theory to the case of up to two ionizations per carrier transit across the SCR is a composite of an infinite number of the up-to-one-ionization analyses. In order to restrict the algebraic details to manageable size, the author chose to analyze the case of up to two ionizations per carrier transit under the additional restriction that the probability of the second ionization is much smaller than the probability of the first ionization, and, therefore, that terms containing  $\bar{a}_2^2$ , where  $\bar{a}_2$  is the probability of the second ionization, could be neglected. It was felt that this would be a reasonable approximation for the noise data of Figures 36 to 39 below the first slope transition.

The analysis of this case under the additional approximation that the electron and hole ionization probabilities are the same (as justified by DC calculations of Chapter V and by the relative insensitivity of the results of Figure 40 to  $k = \frac{\bar{b}}{a}$ ) is given in Appendix B. The algebraically tedious results, evaluated for  $\frac{\bar{a}_2}{\bar{a}_1} = 0.3$ , which is the highest ratio

of the probability of the second ionization to the probability of the first ionization that the author felt could be assumed under the approximation that  $\bar{a}_2 < \bar{a}_1$ , are compared in Figure 42 with the results of the up to one ionization per transit theory, evaluated for  $k = \frac{\bar{b}}{\bar{a}} = 1$ . Although the two curves intersect giving rise to a slope transition, in accordance with the previous interpretation of the slope transitions in the experimental data, the results are somewhat disappointing in that  $f(\bar{a}_1, \bar{a}_2)$  is not sufficiently larger to give substantially better agreement between theory and the noise data of Figures 36 to 39.

A careful examination of the various assumptions and approximations made in the theoretical analysis revealed that the source of the final discrepancy between the theoretical results and the experimental data lay in the simplifying approximation that the carrier ionization probability is the same on all transits. A typical plot of the number of carriers generated on a given transit per one tunneling electron, obtained from DC calculations for the 1N752 diode operating at reverse bias of 5.2 volts, and shown in Figure 43, demonstrates that the ionization probability for electrons on the first transit across the diode SCR is considerably smaller than the ionization probability for carriers traversing the SCR on succeeding transits. This may be deduced by comparing the ratio of consecutive

terms for transit numbers greater than about five which, in the case of Figure 42 is 0.88, with the value of the first term, 0.516. If the ionization probability were identical for all transits, the value of the first term would have been 0.88. In retrospect, it is easy to see why the ionization probability on the first transit is less than on succeeding transits. The electrons undergoing ionizations on the first transit come from tunneling, which, in terms of Figure 35, means that they do not become free carriers until  $x=x_1$ . Consequently, they ionize over a much smaller portion of the SCR than do the succeeding holes or electrons originating as free carriers closer to the edges of the SCR.

To determine what effect the smaller ionization probability on the first transit would have on the noise theory, the derivation of the up-to-one-ionization-per-SCR-transit theory was repeated for the case of  $\bar{a}=\bar{b}$ ,  $\frac{\bar{a}_1}{a}=r<1$ , where  $\bar{a}_1$  is the ionization probability on the first transit. The result, derived in detail in Appendix A, is given by

$$s_i = 2qI_t (1+3M+2M^2/r) \quad (4.27)$$

clearly indicating that theoretically predicted noise output will increase for  $r<1$ .

This analysis was also repeated for the up to two ionizations per SCR transit theory. Indeed, this is the

derivation that appears in Appendix B. Because the results are algebraically tedious, they are evaluated numerically once the values of  $\bar{a}_{11}$ ,  $\bar{a}_1$ , and  $\bar{a}_2$  have been determined. Here,  $\bar{a}_{11}$  denotes the probability of the first ionization on the first transit, and  $\bar{a}_1$  and  $\bar{a}_2$  are the first and second ionization probabilities on succeeding transits. For the range of voltages where the up to two ionizations theory is valid, the probability of second ionization on the first transit is zero. The details of evaluating  $\bar{a}_{11}$ ,  $\bar{a}_1$  and  $\bar{a}_2$  from the DC multiplication program are discussed in Appendix C.

The final results of the up to two ionizations per SCR transit theory for the case of  $\bar{a}_{11} < \bar{a}_1$  are compared with the experimental data for the 1N749 to 1N751 diodes in Figures 44 to 46. In view of the many approximations made in the derivation of the theory, the agreement is quite good, even for those values of  $M$  where the probability of a third ionization is no longer zero. In the case of the 1N751 diode, where at low values of  $M$  the theory predicts a larger noise output than appears to have been observed, the discrepancy is probably due to incorrect values of  $M$ , which at low values, can be subject to substantial error.

The analysis of the noise data was terminated at this point for it was felt that even though an up-to-three-ionizations-per-SCR-transit theory would undoubtedly

yield better agreement between theory and experiment, it would probably offer no new insights into the details of the multiplication mechanism, and, therefore, in view of the algebraic tedium required for its derivation, would not be worthwhile.

CHAPTER V  
CALCULATION OF DC MULTIPLICATION

As has already been mentioned in Chapter III, the calculation of DC multiplication in avalanche diodes has conventionally been done by integrating the electron and hole ionization rates,  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , over the junction SCR, in accordance with the solution of the differential equation

$$-\frac{dJ_p(x)}{dx} = \frac{dJ_n(x)}{dx} = \alpha(x)J_n(x) + \beta(x)J_p(x) \quad (5.1)$$

modeling the process. Since this equation incorporates the effect of the threshold energies for ionization implicitly in the ionization rates and, therefore, is not capable of modeling those segments of the carrier trajectories over which multiplication does not occur because the carriers do not have sufficient energy to ionize, it is not applicable to calculation of DC multiplication in low breakdown voltage diodes in which these "inactive" segments of carrier trajectories constitute a very sizeable portion of the diode SCR.

These "inactive" segments could be taken into account in the above equation by incorporating "distance delays,"  $L_1(x)$  and  $L_2(x)$ , so that

$$-\frac{dJ_p(x)}{dx} = \frac{dJ_n(x)}{dx} = \alpha(x)J_n[x-L_1(x)] + \beta(x)J_p[x+L_2(x)] . \quad (5.2)$$

However, if  $L_1(x)$  and  $L_2(x)$  are taken so that

$$V_e = -q \int_{x-L_1(x)}^x E(x) dx \quad (5.3)$$

and

$$V_h = -q \int_x^{x+L_2(x)} E(x) dx \quad (5.4)$$

where  $V_e$  and  $V_h$  represent, respectively, the threshold potentials for ionization of electrons and holes, then the magnitudes of  $J_n$  and  $J_p$  must be increased from their actual values at  $x \pm L(x)$  since, in general, there will be some carriers with non-zero energies which will not need to travel the full distance  $L(x)$  to acquire the necessary threshold energy for ionization. On the other hand, if  $J_n$  and  $J_p$  are left unaltered, then  $L_1(x)$  and  $L_2(x)$  need to be evaluated as suitable averages over all carrier energies. Since neither correction is easy to make at the outset, and since the modified differential equation would still need to be solved numerically, the author chose to abandon this approach in favor of a numerical simulation of the multiplication process.

The simulation, whose program listing is given in Appendix C is accomplished as follows. An abrupt junction

doping profile is assumed, and the electric field triangle is cut into a large number of variable width segments such that the integral of the electric field is the same over each segment. (In the results shown in Figures 47 to 50,

$$dV = -q \int_{x}^{x+\Delta x} E(x) dx = 0.01V, \text{ so that the electric field}$$

triangle was cut into several hundred segments.) The integral of the ionization rates, which represents the probability of an ionization, and the fraction of the tunneling current originating in a given interval are then evaluated approximately for each interval by

$$dP_n(k) = \int_{x_k}^{x_k + \Delta x_k} \alpha(x) dx \approx \frac{1}{2} [\alpha(x_k + \Delta x_k) + \alpha(x_k)] \Delta x_k \quad (5.5)$$

$$dP_h(k) = \int_{x_k}^{x_k + \Delta x_k} \beta(x) dx \approx \frac{1}{2} [\beta(x_k + \Delta x_k) + \beta(x_k)] \Delta x_k \quad (5.6)$$

and

$$dI_t(k) = \frac{\int_{x_k}^{x_k + \Delta x_k} e^{-\frac{s}{E(x)}} dx}{\int_0^w e^{-\frac{s}{E(x)}} dx}$$

$$\approx \frac{\frac{1}{2} [e^{-\frac{s}{E(x_k + \Delta x_k)}} + e^{-\frac{s}{E(x_k)}}] \Delta x_k}{\frac{1}{2} \sum_k [e^{-\frac{s}{E(x_k + \Delta x_k)}} + e^{-\frac{s}{E(x_k)}}] \Delta x_k} \quad (5.7)$$

where  $dP_n(k)$  and  $dP_h(k)$  represent, respectively, the probability of ionization for electrons and holes in the  $k$ -th interval, and  $dI_t(k)$  represents the normalized tunneling current originating in the  $k$ -th interval. The multiplication process is then simulated by following the motion of electrons and holes back and forth across the diode SCR, and allowing them to participate in ionizations after they acquire their respective threshold energies, which can be kept track of very easily by counting off the appropriate number of intervals. Thus, the tunneling current originating in the  $k$ -th interval becomes a free electron current in the  $(k+m)$ -th interval, where  $m = \frac{q}{dV}$ , which may then ionize starting in the  $(k+m+n_1)$ -th interval, where  $n_1 = \frac{e}{dV}$ , and where  $V_g$  and  $V_e$  denote, respectively, the bandgap potential and the electron threshold potential for ionization. That fraction of the tunneling current which ionizes in a particular interval, and the ionization produced electrons originating in that interval, are then not allowed to ionize again until they have traveled at least another  $n_1$  intervals. The tunneling electrons are traced in this manner across the entire SCR, while the holes produced in ionizations occurring in a given interval are traced in the opposite direction, not being allowed to ionize until they have traveled at least  $n_2 = \frac{h}{dV}$  intervals, where  $V_h$  is the hole threshold potential for ionization. The fraction of the hole current ionizing in a particular interval, along with the

ionization produced holes originating in that interval, are then not allowed to ionize again until they have traversed at least another  $n_2$  intervals. In this manner the hole current is traced across the entire SCR.

This procedure is alternately repeated for electrons and holes, and the contribution to the terminal current due to ionizations on each carrier transit across the SCR is recorded. When the contribution on the p-th transit is less than 0.005 of the contribution on the first transit, the simulation is stopped and the contributions to the terminal current from all transits are added. The same procedure is followed for the multiplication process initiated by the holes left in the valence band when the electrons tunnel to the conduction band. The total multiplication is then the sum of the contributions from the tunneling electron initiated multiplication and the typically much smaller hole initiated multiplication.

The simulation thus circumvents both of the previously discussed difficulties which would be encountered in the differential equation approach to the computation of DC multiplication. It incorporates unambiguously the threshold energies for ionization and, by keeping track of the past history of the carriers, automatically computes the fraction of the total current crossing a given interval which is sufficiently energetic to ionize in that interval. This is equivalent to automatically adjusting the magnitudes of

$J_n[x-L_1(x)]$  and  $J_p[x+L_2(x)]$  to account for the fact that not all carriers need to travel the full distance  $L(x)$  in order to acquire the necessary threshold energy for ionization.

Unfortunately, the simulation creates a different problem which, too, is difficult to resolve at the outset. Namely, it assumes that when an ionizing collision occurs the primary carrier and the secondary carriers are scattered in a way which, on the average, does not impart any excess energy to either the primary or the secondary carriers, so that all carriers will be accelerated again essentially from rest. Since the scattering produced by an ionizing collision is probably not isotropic, this assumption may not seem very reasonable. However, in the actual calculations the non-isotropic effects should, at least partially, cancel, for if the scattering favors the direction of the ionizing carrier, then the carriers of the same polarity as the ionizing carriers will not need to accelerate the full distance  $L(x)$  to acquire the threshold energy, whereas the carriers of opposite polarity will need to accelerate farther than the distance  $L(x)$  to acquire their threshold energy. Since the simulation is performed by alternately tracing the motion of electrons and holes across the SCR, these effects should alternately cancel to some extent. However, without knowing the exact details of the ionization and scattering mechanism, it is difficult to estimate how much cancelling actually takes place.

Although the simulation program was written especially for computation of DC multiplication occurring in low breakdown voltage diodes, where it is necessary to take the threshold energies for ionization explicitly into account, it may also be used to perform DC multiplication calculations in the conventional manner simply by letting the threshold energies for ionization, and the bandgap energy, approach zero. In actual calculations the bandgap and threshold potentials were set at 0.01 V. The ionization rates employed were those of van Overstraeten and de Man (1970). From the results obtained for diodes 1N750 to 1N752, shown in Figures 47 to 49 under the label of "conventional calculations," it is apparent that the conventional method of performing DC multiplication calculations is inadequate for it predicts much greater multiplication than is experimentally observed, even to the point of predicting finite multiplication when no multiplication actually occurs, as evidenced by the noise data of Figures 15 to 21.

Although, as shown in Figures 47 to 49 under the label of "conventional calculations, including tunneling," the agreement between the experimental and the calculated results improves somewhat when, on the first transit, the bandgap energy for tunneling is taken into account, the calculated values of DC multiplication are still considerably larger than what is experimentally observed, and finite values of multiplication are still calculated when no multiplication actually occurs.

When the threshold energies for ionization are finally taken into account, the calculated values of DC multiplication do go to zero when no multiplication is observed in the noise data, but the predicted magnitudes of the DC multiplication are smaller than those experimentally observed. This, however, is understandable for the integral of the ionization rates over a given distance represents, by definition, the probability of ionization over that distance. Therefore, eliminating large portions of the diode SCR from integration by explicitly taking the threshold energies for ionization into account, but employing conventional ionization rates derived from integration over the entire SCR, reduces the calculated ionization probabilities and, therefore, the calculated DC multiplication factor. It, therefore, seems appropriate to increase the ionization rates to compensate for this shortening of the ionization rates' integration region. Unfortunately, this is not a trivial matter since the functional dependence of the ionization rates on the electric field implicitly reflects, along with other parameters, the influence of the threshold energies for ionization on the ionization rates, and, therefore, should probably be modified when the threshold energies for ionization are explicitly taken into account. Since there exists no theoretical groundwork to indicate how this should be accomplished, the author chose not to modify the functional dependence of the ionization rates, but merely introduce scaling constants  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  so that

the adjusted ionization rates  $\alpha'$  and  $\beta'$  are given by  $\alpha' = c_1 \alpha$  and  $\beta' = c_2 \beta$ , where  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are the "reference", conventional ionization rates given by van Overstraeten and de Man (1970). The constants  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are adjusted to give the best possible agreement between the calculated and the experimentally obtained values of DC multiplication.

Since the adjusted ionization coefficients would be useless if  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  were determined individually for each diode, the author chose to adjust  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  on diode 1N752, whose DC calculations are most sensitive to the values of  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  because they need to attain the largest values of DC multiplication without diverging. Once this was done, calculations were performed on the remaining diodes, using their respective values of the threshold energies for ionization, as determined in Chapter IV. The results of these calculations are shown in Figures 47 to 49 under the label of "calculated". The discrepancy between the calculated and the experimental values of DC multiplication occurring for low values of  $M$  is attributed to the triangle approximation for the junction electric field, which gets progressively worse with decreasing reverse voltage since the diode SCR narrows and gets progressively closer to the changing doping densities of the junction metallurgical transition region. In that region the triangle approximation predicts stronger electric fields than are actually present. This, in turn, leads to larger

calculated values of ionization probabilities and, hence, larger than observed values of DC multiplication. In spite of this discrepancy, the DC calculations performed by explicitly taking the threshold energies for ionization into account and employing the adjusted ionization rates are in considerably better agreement with the experimental data than are the results obtained by conventional calculations.

The values obtained for  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are quite reasonable also:  $c_1=3$ ,  $c_2=5$ . In fact, it was on the basis of the magnitude of  $c_2$  that the author dismissed as unlikely the  $2.85 \pm 0.2$  eV value for the hole threshold energy for ionization, for when this value was employed in the DC calculations it was not possible to obtain reasonable agreement between the calculated and the experimental values of DC multiplication for values of  $c_2$  as large as twenty.

It was also observed that when the best agreement between the theoretical and experimental results was obtained, the electron and hole ionization contributions to the DC multiplication decreased monotonically on successive transits, as shown in Figure 43. Since the ratio of successive terms remained essentially constant regardless of which terms were picked (with the exception of the beginning few) this implies that the ionization probabilities for electrons and holes were essentially

the same. This information is used in Appendix B to simplify the derivation of the expressions for the magnitude of the low frequency spectral density of noise current produced in a multiplication process resulting from no more than two ionizations per carrier transit across the diode SCR.

CHAPTER VI  
CONCLUSIONS

The principal result of this study is a detailed understanding of the mechanism of reverse conduction transition from tunneling to impact ionization multiplication in low breakdown voltage silicon p-n junctions. It is concluded that the transition occurs when the energy of the tunneling electrons exceeds the electron threshold energy for ionization.

If the DC multiplication factor is redefined by  $M = (I_r/I_t) - 1$ , and the functional form of the expression for the magnitude of the noise current spectral density is changed to  $S_i = 2qI_t [1+f(M)]$ , then the electron and hole threshold energies may be obtained from slope transitions in the plots of  $\log f(M)$  vs.  $\log M$ . The electron threshold energy for ionization determined in this manner is found to be in excellent agreement with the value of  $1.8 \pm 0.1$  eV found by Moll and van Overstraeten (1963). However, the hole threshold energy of  $1.9 \pm 0.15$  eV disagrees with their value of  $2.4 \pm 0.1$  eV. Moreover, it is found that the threshold energy for ionization is not constant, but increases slightly with increasing junction width.

The noise data may also be used to estimate the average minimum distance between ionizing collisions. This is

accomplished by obtaining the junction width at the reverse voltage corresponding to the onset of the transition from no more than two to no more than three ionizing collisions per electron or hole transit across the diode SCR, and dividing that distance by three. The results are:

Diode type	Average min. distance for electron ionizing collisions	Average min. distance for hole ionizing collisions
1N749	192 A	199 A
1N750	213 A	224 A
1N751	223 A	234 A
1N752	242 A	250 A

When the threshold energies for ionization, the total potential at the onset of carrier multiplication, and the value of  $(N_A - N_D)N_D/N_A$  are interpreted in terms of the transition model (Figure 35), the values of  $N_A$  and  $N_D$  can be determined. The doping densities on both sides of a step junction may thus be evaluated from diode noise and C-V measurements. This technique could be used in some cases for the evaluation of impurity solubilities in silicon.

Conversely, when the junction doping profile and the threshold energies for ionization are known, the transition model may be used to predict the reverse potential for the onset of impact ionization multiplication. This furnishes a method for distinguishing the tunneling section from the multiplication section of the diode reverse V-I characteristics.

Besides determining the onset of carrier multiplication, the threshold energies for ionization dominate the mechanism of the multiplication process. Because they allow no more than two or three ionizations per carrier transit across the diode SCR, they render Tager's (1965) and McIntyre's (1966) theories of noise in avalanche diodes inapplicable to the diodes of this study. This is amply demonstrated by the severe discrepancies between their theoretical results and the experimental data, and by the considerable improvement in agreement between the data and the theoretical results obtained when an upper limit of two ionizations per carrier transit across the SCR is explicitly imposed. Indeed, for low multiplication values, a noise theory based on the explicit constraint of no more than one ionization per carrier transit across the diode SCR gives considerably better agreement with the experimental data than do the theories of Tager (1965) or McIntyre (1966).

Moreover, unless the effect of threshold energies for ionization is explicitly taken into account, a finite value of DC multiplication is calculated when no multiplication is experimentally observed. This discrepancy does not arise when a simulation program incorporating the threshold energies for ionization is used for calculating the DC multiplication.

The many details of the transition mechanism thus lead to the conclusion that the conventional treatment of carrier multiplication phenomena, based on the equation

$$-\frac{dJ_p(x)}{dx} = \frac{dJ_n(x)}{dx} = \mu(x)J_n(x) + \beta(x)J_p(x) \quad (6.1)$$

is not applicable to carrier multiplication in low breakdown voltage diodes.

CHAPTER VII  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

The first undertaking in further work on this topic should be the removal of the triangular electric field approximation from the DC multiplication simulation program. The electric field should be obtained from the Poisson equation and the impurity doping profile. If this correction does not remove the discrepancy between the experimental and the calculated values of DC multiplication at low reverse voltages, the cause of the discrepancy should be investigated.

When good agreement between the experimental and the calculated values of DC multiplication is obtained, the calculations should be extended to a case of greater practical importance: the reverse breakdown characteristics of base-emitter junctions of bipolar transistors. Because of the very heavy doping densities encountered in base-emitter junctions, it will probably be necessary to take bandgap narrowing into account. Moreover, if the reverse DC V-I characteristics of the base-emitter junctions or of the low breakdown voltage diodes are to be calculated directly from impurity doping profiles, it will also be necessary to refine the theory of tunneling breakdown (Chynoweth et al., 1960; Tyagi, 1968).

Furthermore, the program should be modified to calculate carrier multiplication resulting from a single pass across the space charge region. This would permit calculation of carrier multiplication in short channel FET's and other small devices in which one carrier type is somehow removed so that it does not participate in the multiplication process.

Since the threshold energies for ionization play an important role in the simulation program, accurate calculations of DC multiplication in structures of arbitrary lengths and arbitrary impurity doping profiles will require accurate knowledge of the threshold energies under these conditions. Consequently, it will be necessary to carry out additional DC and noise studies to establish means of predicting the threshold energies for ionization in such structures.

The effect of different junction widths and different electric field profiles could be investigated further with the aid of the recently developed replacement series for the 1N746 to 1N752 diodes employed in this study. The new series of diodes, manufactured by alloying aluminum onto the lightly doped p layer of a p-n<sup>+</sup> diode, break down more abruptly than their older counterparts. The more abrupt breakdown is obtained from the resulting p<sup>+</sup>-p-n<sup>+</sup> doping profile (author's conjecture!), which, for any given reverse voltage, widens the space charge region and lowers the peak electric field. The lower peak electric field decreases the tunneling current

and the wider junction sets up a more favorable environment for impact ionization. Thus, when impact ionization multiplication finally sets in, it occurs more abruptly than in the conventional  $p^+-n^+$  alloy diodes employed in this study. Since the new diodes should, for a given value of DC multiplication, exhibit more noise than their older counterparts, this conjecture should not be difficult to verify.

Moreover, it would be possible to fabricate narrower junctions by employing stronger p-type material, such as boron doped aluminum (Chynoweth et al., 1960). The electric field profiles in such  $p^{++}-n^+$  diodes would be more asymmetrical, which should permit impact ionization multiplication at lower reverse voltages. This should reduce the likelihood of multiple ionizations per carrier transit across the space charge region, and make the noise data more amenable to interpretation in terms of the already developed noise theory.

Due to phonon involvement in the carrier transport and energy balance mechanisms, the threshold energies for ionization should also be determined as function of temperature. Low temperature measurements might also shed some light on the mechanism of phonon collision involvement in the ionization and multiplication processes. Tunnel diode DC V-I characteristics measured at  $4.2^\circ\text{K}$  revealed structure which reflected the cooperation of different energy phonons in the tunneling process (Chynoweth et al., 1962; Logan and Chynoweth, 1963; Logan et al., 1964). Such structure might also be observed in the DC or noise data of these diodes.

In conjunction with the experimental work, the noise theory should be extended to the case of a multiple, but finite number of ionizing collisions per carrier transit across the diode space charge region. This might be possible by combining the author's method with the approach employed by van Vliet in the derivation of avalanche photodetector noise (van Vliet, 1967). Incorporating the quantum efficiency and the Boson factor in the primary current would also make the theory useful for evaluating avalanche photodetector performance.

Finally, the improved multiple ionization noise theory could be used to extract from the noise data information on the ionization probabilities. This would be of considerable help in undertaking a theoretical study of the adjusted ionization coefficients. Such a study might also lead to new approaches to the treatment of other aspects of carrier transport in small devices for which the conventional, differential equations approach, with its implicit assumption of unlimited scattering, is not valid.

## APPENDIX A

### MULTIPLICATION NOISE RESULTING FROM NO MORE THAN ONE IONIZATION PER CARRIER TRANSIT ACROSS DIODE SCR

The derivation of expressions for the magnitude of the low frequency spectral density of noise current produced in impact ionization multiplication resulting from no more than one ionization per carrier transit across the diode space charge region proceeds as follows. As indicated in Chapter IV, the total number of carriers,  $N$ , collected at the diode terminals in one second is given by

$$N = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} n_i$$

where  $n_0$  is the number of electrons tunneling in one second, and  $n_i$ ,  $i=1, 2, 3, \dots$  is the number of hole-electron pairs produced in one second on the  $i$ -th carrier transit across the diode SCR.

If it is assumed that  $\bar{n}_1 = \bar{a}\bar{n}_0$ ,  $\bar{n}_2 = \bar{b}\bar{n}_1 = \bar{a}\bar{b}\bar{n}_0$ ,  $\bar{n}_3 = \bar{a}\bar{n}_2 = \bar{a}^2\bar{b}\bar{n}_0$ , etc., where the  $\bar{\phantom{a}}$  denotes averages and  $\bar{a}$  and  $\bar{b}$  represent the ionization probabilities of electrons and holes, respectively, then

$$\bar{N} = \bar{n}_0 (1 + \bar{a} + \bar{a}\bar{b} + \bar{a}^2\bar{b} + \bar{a}^2\bar{b}^2 + \dots)$$

and the DC multiplication factor,  $M = \bar{N}/\bar{n}_0 - 1$  becomes

$$M = \frac{\bar{a}(1+\bar{b})}{1-\bar{a}\bar{b}} .$$

The low frequency spectrum of the current fluctuations can be obtained from

$$S_N = 2\text{var } N$$

where  $S_N$  denotes the magnitude of the spectrum of  $N$ , the number of events occurring per unit time interval (van der Ziel, 1970). Since  $I_r = qN$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 S_{I_x} &= 2q^2 \text{var } N \\
 &= 2q^2 (\bar{N}^2 - \bar{N}^2) \\
 &= 2q^2 \left\{ \overline{\left( \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} n_i \right)^2} - \overline{\left( \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} n_i \right)}^2 \right\} \\
 &= 2q^2 \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (\bar{n}_i \bar{n}_j - \bar{n}_i \bar{n}_j) \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

To evaluate  $\overline{n_i n_j}$ , it is necessary to have explicit expressions for  $n_i$  and  $n_j$ . These may be obtained as follows. If the emission of tunneling electrons is pictured as a sequence of 1's, then the terms  $n_j$ ,  $j=0, 1, 2, \dots$  can be pictured as

$n_0:$	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	...	1	...	1
$n_1:$	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	...	$a_{1r}$	...	1
$n_2:$	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	...	$a_{1r}b_{2r}$	...	0
$n_3:$	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	...	$a_{1r}b_{2r}a_{3r}$	...	0
$n_4:$	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	...	$a_{1r}b_{2r}a_{3r}b_{4r}$	...	0
									.			
									.			
									.			
										etc.		

where  $l_{jk}$   $j=1, 2, 3, \dots, k=1, 2, 3, \dots, n_0$ , denotes the occurrence of an ionizing collision on the  $j$ -th transit, initiated by the  $k$ -th tunneling electron, and where the 0's denote the absence of ionizing collisions. The transitions from 1 to 0 occur independently and at random. From the above tabulation, it is apparent that  $n_j$  is given by

$$n_j = \sum_{r=1}^{n_0} a_{1r} b_{2r} a_{3r} b_{4r} \dots \begin{matrix} a_{jr} ; j \text{ odd} \\ \text{or} \\ b_{jr} ; j \text{ even} \end{matrix}$$

where  $a_{jk}$  and  $b_{jk}$ ,  $j=1, 2, 3, \dots, k=1, 2, 3, \dots, n_0$  are 1 or 0, for even though  $a_{jk}$  and  $b_{jk}$  are allowed to fluctuate independently and at random,  $\prod_{k=1}^{n_0} a_{kr} b_{kr}$  retains the two essential features of the above table, namely, that (i) if all preceding entries in the  $k$ -th column are 1, then the next entry can be 1 or 0, and (ii) that if any of the preceding entries is 0, then the next succeeding entry must be 0. The average

$$\overline{n_i n_j} = \overline{\left( \sum_{r=1}^{n_0} a_{1r} b_{2r} \dots \begin{matrix} a_{ir} \\ \text{or} \\ b_{ir} \end{matrix} \right) \left( \sum_{p=1}^{n_0} a_{1p} b_{2p} \dots \begin{matrix} a_{jp} \\ \text{or} \\ b_{jp} \end{matrix} \right)}$$

may now be evaluated by ensemble averaging. Averaging over the  $m_N$  subensembles containing  $n_0 = N$  elements

$$\overline{n_i n_j}^N = \frac{1}{m_N} \sum_{m=1}^{m_N} \left\{ \left( \sum_{r=1}^N a_{1r} b_{2r} \dots \begin{matrix} a_{ir} \\ \text{or} \\ b_{ir} \end{matrix} \right) \left( \sum_{p=1}^N a_{1p} b_{2p} \dots \begin{matrix} a_{jp} \\ \text{or} \\ b_{jp} \end{matrix} \right) \right\}$$

$$= \frac{1}{m_N} \sum_{m=1}^{m_N} \left\{ \sum_{r=1}^N a_{1r}^2 b_{2r}^2 \dots \begin{matrix} a_{ir}^2 \\ \text{or} \\ b_{ir}^2 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} b_{(i+1)r} \\ \dots \text{or} \\ b_{jr} \end{matrix} \right\}$$

$$+ \frac{1}{m_N} \sum_{m=1}^{m_N} \left\{ \sum_{r=1}^N \sum_{p=1}^N (a_{1r} b_{2r} \dots \begin{matrix} a_{ir} \\ b_{ir} \end{matrix} \text{ or } (a_{1p} b_{2p} \dots \begin{matrix} a_{jp} \\ b_{jp} \end{matrix} \text{ or } ) \right\} .$$

Since all  $\bar{a}$ 's and  $\bar{b}$ 's are equal, then if both  $i$  and  $j$  are even

$$\overline{n_i n_j}^N = N \left( \bar{a}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \bar{b}^2 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \bar{a} \right)^{\frac{j-i}{2}} \left( \bar{b} \right)^{\frac{j-i}{2}} + N(N-1) \left( \bar{a} \right)^{\frac{i+j}{2}} \left( \bar{b} \right)^{\frac{i+j}{2}} .$$

Moreover, since  $a$  and  $b$  are 1 or 0,  $\bar{a}^2 = \bar{a}$  and  $\bar{b}^2 = \bar{b}$ . Therefore,

$$\overline{n_i n_j}^N = N \bar{a}^{\frac{1}{2}} \bar{b}^{\frac{1}{2}} + N(N-1) \bar{a}^{\frac{i+j}{2}} \bar{b}^{\frac{i+j}{2}} .$$

Finally, averaging over all subensembles

$$\overline{\overline{n_i n_j}} = \overline{\bar{n}_0} \bar{a}^{\frac{1}{2}} \bar{b}^{\frac{1}{2}} + (\overline{\bar{n}_0^2} - \overline{\bar{n}_0}) \bar{a}^{\frac{i+j}{2}} \bar{b}^{\frac{i+j}{2}} .$$

Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{\overline{n_i n_j}} - \overline{\bar{n}_i} \overline{\bar{n}_j} &= \overline{\bar{n}_0} \bar{a}^{\frac{1}{2}} \bar{b}^{\frac{1}{2}} + (\overline{\bar{n}_0^2} - \overline{\bar{n}_0}) \bar{a}^{\frac{i+j}{2}} \bar{b}^{\frac{i+j}{2}} \\ &\quad - \overline{\bar{n}_0^2} \bar{a}^{\frac{i+j}{2}} \bar{b}^{\frac{i+j}{2}} \\ &= \overline{\bar{n}_0} \bar{a}^{\frac{1}{2}} \bar{b}^{\frac{1}{2}} + [(\overline{\bar{n}_0^2} - \overline{\bar{n}_0^2}) - \overline{\bar{n}_0}] \bar{a}^{\frac{i+j}{2}} \bar{b}^{\frac{i+j}{2}} . \end{aligned}$$

However, since the tunneling electrons have a Poisson distribution, for which  $\text{var } \bar{n}_0 = \overline{\bar{n}_0}$

$$(\overline{\overline{n_i n_j}} - \overline{\bar{n}_i} \overline{\bar{n}_j}) = \overline{\bar{n}_0} \bar{a}^{\frac{1}{2}} \bar{b}^{\frac{1}{2}} ; \quad i, j \text{ even} .$$

The same expression is obtained if  $j$  is even and  $i$  is odd.

If  $j$  is odd and  $i$  is odd or even,

$$(\overline{n_i n_j} - \overline{n_i} \overline{n_j}) = \bar{n}_0 \bar{a}^{\frac{j+1}{2}} \bar{b}^{\frac{j-1}{2}} .$$

If  $i \geq j$ , the above expressions hold provided  $j$  is replaced by  $i$ . Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{var } N &= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (\overline{n_i n_j} - \overline{n_i} \overline{n_j}) \\ &= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} (\overline{n_i^2} - \overline{n_i}^2) + 2 \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\substack{j=0 \\ j>i}}^{\infty} (\overline{n_i n_j} - \overline{n_i} \overline{n_j}) \\ &= \bar{n}_0 (1 + \bar{a} + \bar{a} \bar{b} + \bar{a}^2 \bar{b} + \bar{a}^2 \bar{b}^2 + \dots \\ &\quad + 2 \bar{n}_0 (\bar{a} + \bar{a} \bar{b} + \bar{a}^2 \bar{b} + \bar{a}^2 \bar{b}^2 + \dots \\ &\quad \quad \quad + \bar{a} \bar{b} + \bar{a}^2 \bar{b} + \bar{a}^2 \bar{b}^2 + \dots \\ &\quad \quad \quad + \bar{a}^2 \bar{b} + \bar{a}^2 \bar{b}^2 + \dots \\ &\quad \quad \quad + \bar{a}^2 \bar{b}^2 + \dots \\ &\quad \quad \quad \vdots \quad ) \\ &= \bar{n}_0 \left\{ \frac{1 + \bar{a}}{1 - \bar{a} \bar{b}} + 2 \left[ \frac{\bar{a} (1 + \bar{b})}{(1 - \bar{a} \bar{b})^2} + \frac{\bar{a} \bar{b} (1 + \bar{a})}{(1 - \bar{a} \bar{b})^2} \right] \right\} \\ &= \bar{n}_0 \left\{ \frac{1 + 3\bar{a} + 3\bar{a}\bar{b} + \bar{a}^2 \bar{b}}{(1 - \bar{a} \bar{b})^2} \right\} . \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
 S_{I_r} &= 2q^2 \text{var } N \\
 &= 2q^2 \bar{n}_0 \left\{ \frac{1+3\bar{a}+3\bar{a}\bar{b}+\bar{a}^2\bar{b}}{(1-\bar{a}\bar{b})^2} \right\} \\
 &= 2qI_t \left\{ \frac{1+3\bar{a}+3\bar{a}\bar{b}+\bar{a}^2\bar{b}}{(1-\bar{a}\bar{b})^2} \right\} .
 \end{aligned}$$

If  $\bar{a}=\bar{b}$

$$S_{I_r} = 2qI_t \frac{(1+\bar{a})}{(1-\bar{a})^2}$$

and

$$M = \frac{\bar{a}}{(1-\bar{a})} .$$

Therefore,

$$S_{I_r} = 2qI_t (1+3M+2M^2) .$$

If, however, the probability of ionizing collision on the first transit,  $\bar{a}_1$ , is not equal to  $\bar{a}$ , the probability of ionizing collision on succeeding transits, then

$$(\bar{n}_i \bar{n}_j - \bar{n}_i \bar{n}_j) = \bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_1 \bar{a}^{(j-1)} ; j > i$$

$$(\bar{n}_i \bar{n}_j - \bar{n}_i \bar{n}_j) = \bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_1 \bar{a}^{(i-1)} ; j < i$$

and

$$(\bar{n}_0^2 - \bar{n}_0^2) = \bar{n}_0 .$$

Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned}\text{var } N &= \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (\bar{n}_i \bar{n}_j - \bar{n}_i \bar{n}_j) \\ &= \bar{n}_0 \left\{ \frac{(1+\bar{a})^2 + \bar{a}_1 (1-\bar{a}) + 2\bar{a}_1}{(1-\bar{a})^2} \right\}\end{aligned}$$

and

$$M = \frac{\bar{a}_1}{(1-\bar{a})}.$$

Therefore, if  $\frac{\bar{a}_1}{\bar{a}} = r$

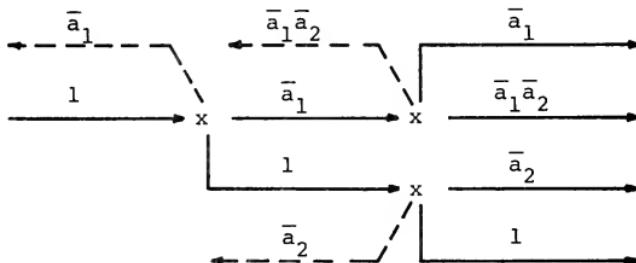
$$S_{I_r} = 2qI_t (1 + 3M + \frac{2M^2}{r})$$

## APPENDIX B

### MULTIPLICATION NOISE RESULTING FROM NO MORE THAN TWO IONIZATIONS PER CARRIER TRANSIT ACROSS DIODE SCR

The derivation of expressions for the magnitude of the low frequency spectral density of noise current produced in impact ionization multiplication resulting from no more than two ionizations per carrier transit across the diode space charge region proceeds as follows.

It is assumed that carrier multiplication taking place during one transit across the diode SCR is, in general, of the form



where "1" denotes the "primary" carrier initiating the multiplication process, "x" denotes an ionizing collision,  $\bar{a}_1$  and  $\bar{a}_2$  denote the probabilities of the first and second ionizing collision, and the dashed lines indicate carriers of opposite charge to the "primary" carriers.

If the above diagram is extended to include several transits across the diode SCR, it takes on the appearance

of a "tree" from which it becomes apparent that the multiplication process can be decomposed into an infinite number of "branches" of the form

$$\xrightarrow{n} x \xrightarrow{n\bar{a}_1} x \xrightarrow{n\bar{a}_1\bar{a}_2} x \xrightarrow{n\bar{a}_1^2\bar{a}_2} x \xrightarrow{n\bar{a}_1^2\bar{a}_2} x \xrightarrow{n\bar{a}_1^3\bar{a}_2} \dots \text{etc.}$$

which is precisely the up to one ionization per carrier transit across the SCR process for the case of unequal probabilities for holes and electrons. (It should be observed, however, that in this analysis, the ionization probabilities for electrons and holes are assumed to be the same. The evidence supporting this assumption is discussed in Chapter V. Even if this assumption were not strictly valid, however, Figure 40 indicates that the results obtained for unequal ionization probabilities do not differ substantially from the result obtained for equal ionization probabilities in the one ionization per carrier transit case. And since the up to two ionizations per carrier transit across the SCR case is a composition of the one ionization per carrier transit cases, the final result should not be very sensitive to the difference in ionization probabilities for holes and electrons.)

To reduce the number of "branches" that need to be considered, it will also be assumed that  $\bar{a}_2 \ll \bar{a}_1$ , so that branches beginning with  $\bar{a}_{11}\bar{a}_1^j\bar{a}_2^k$ ,  $k \geq 2$ , will be neglected. This assumption is justified in Appendix C. Moreover,

since the probability of ionizing collision is smaller on the first transit than it is on succeeding transits, the probability of the first ionizing collision on the first transit across the diode SCR will be denoted by  $\bar{a}_{11}$ .

According to the conduction model of Figure 35, the probability of the second ionizing collision on the first transit,  $\bar{a}_{21}$ , for the range of voltages where the up to two ionizations per transit across the SCR theory may be considered valid, is zero. This follows from equation 3.13, with  $1.8 \pm 0.1$  replaced by  $2V_e$ . The results of this calculation are

Diode type	Reverse voltage for which $\bar{a}_{21} > 0$
1N749	4.89-5.06
1N750	4.85-5.00
1N751	4.90-5.06
1N752	4.95-5.10

The reverse voltages given above are greater than the voltages corresponding to the first slope transition in Figures 36 to 39, thus confirming the contention that for the range of voltages where the up to two ionizing collisions per carrier transit theory is valid,  $\bar{a}_{21} = 0$ .

Under the condition stipulated, the "tree" for this multiplication process is given in Figure 50. The heavy arrows denote electron ionizations, the light arrows denote hole ionizations, and the  $[kj]$  denote "branch" numbers. To avoid excessive clutter, only the beginnings of each "branch" are indicated. Thus, "branch"  $[11]$  is the branch given by

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \downarrow \quad \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^3 \bar{a}_2 \\
 x \\
 \downarrow \quad \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^3 \bar{a}_2 \\
 x \\
 \downarrow \quad \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^4 \bar{a}_2 \\
 \vdots
 \end{array}$$

etc.

All branches, therefore, continue vertically downward, and their continuation is indicated by dashed arrows. The beginning of each new branch is indicated by a horizontal translation to the right, followed by the downward arrows of that branch.

The analysis of this multiplication process proceeds as follows. Let  $N$  be the total number of carriers collected at the diode terminals as a result of multiplication initiated by  $n_0$  tunneling electrons. Then,

$$N = \sum_i^{\infty} m_i$$

where  $m_i$  denotes the number of carriers produced by the  $i$ -th branch. Hence,

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{var } N = \sum_i \text{var } m_i + 2 \sum_{\substack{i,j \\ j>i}} (\bar{m}_i \bar{m}_j - \bar{m}_i^2 \bar{m}_j^2)
 \end{aligned}$$

But

$$m_i = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} n_{ik}$$

where  $n_{ik}$  is the number of carriers produced in the  $i$ -th branch, on the  $k$ -th transit across the SCR. Following the procedure of Appendix A,  $n_{ik}$  is, in turn, represented by

$$n_{ik} = \sum_{r=1}^{n_0} (\text{product of } a_{11}, a_1 \text{'s and } a_2 \text{'s})_r$$

where  $a_{11}$ ,  $a_1$ 's and  $a_2$ 's are 1 or 0, and the product function of  $a_{11}$ ,  $a_1$ 's, and  $a_2$ 's reflects the past history of the  $r$ -th primary carrier, in the  $i$ -th branch, on the  $k$ -th transit across the diode SCR. Thus the problem of up to two ionizing collisions per carrier transit across the SCR is reduced to a sum of an infinite number of up to one ionization per carrier transit analyses.

To obtain the expression for  $M$ , the branch contributions are summed as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{N} = \sum_i m_i &= m_{10} + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} m_{1j} + \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} m_{0j0} \\ &+ \sum_{i=2}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} m_{0ij} + \sum_{j=2}^{\infty} m_{j0} + \sum_{i=2}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} m_{ij} \end{aligned}$$

resulting in

$$\begin{aligned}
\bar{N} = & \bar{n}_0 [1 + \bar{a}_{11} \left( \frac{1+\bar{a}_1}{1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2} \right) + \frac{\bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^3 \bar{a}_2 (1+\bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)(1-\bar{a}_1)} \\
& + \frac{\bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^4 \bar{a}_2 (1+\bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)(1-\bar{a}_1)^2} + \frac{\bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^3 \bar{a}_2 (1+\bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)(1-\bar{a}_1)^2} \\
& + \frac{\bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^2 (1+\bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)(1-\bar{a}_1)} + \frac{\bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^4 \bar{a}_2 (1+\bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)(1-\bar{a}_1)^2}] \quad .
\end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $M = \frac{\bar{N}}{\bar{n}_0} - 1$  becomes

$$M = \bar{a}_{11} \left[ \left( 1 + \frac{\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2}{1-\bar{a}_1} \right) \left( \frac{1+\bar{a}_1}{1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2} \right) + \frac{\bar{a}_1^2 (1-\bar{a}_1 + 2\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2) (1+\bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1)^2 (1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)} \right] \quad .$$

To calculate the results for var N, the procedure of Appendix A is duplicated to obtain

$$\text{var } m_1 = 1 + \frac{\bar{a}_{11} (3 + 5\bar{a}_1 + \bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2 - \bar{a}_1^2 \bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)^2}$$

and the variances of the branches  $b_1$  and  $b_2$  whose averages are given by

$$b_1: 1 + \bar{a}_1 + \bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2 + \bar{a}_1^2 \bar{a}_2 + \bar{a}_1^2 \bar{a}_2^2 + \dots$$

and

$$b_2: \bar{a}_1 + \bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2 + \bar{a}_1^2 \bar{a}_2 + \bar{a}_1^2 \bar{a}_2^2 + \dots \quad .$$

They are, respectively,

$$\text{var } b_1 = \frac{1+3\bar{a}_1+3\bar{a}_1\bar{a}_2+\bar{a}_1^2\bar{a}_2}{(1-\bar{a}_1\bar{a}_2)^2}$$

and

$$\text{var } b_2 = \frac{\bar{a}_1(1+3\bar{a}_2+3\bar{a}_1\bar{a}_2+\bar{a}_1^2\bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1\bar{a}_2)^2}.$$

Observing that the variances of branches whose averages are represented by

$$\bar{a}_{11}\bar{a}_1^j\bar{a}_2^k(1+\bar{a}_1+\bar{a}_1\bar{a}_2+\bar{a}_1^2\bar{a}_2+\dots)$$

or

$$\bar{a}_{11}\bar{a}_1^j\bar{a}_2^k(\bar{a}_1+\bar{a}_1\bar{a}_2+\bar{a}_1^2\bar{a}_2+\bar{a}_1^2\bar{a}_2^2+\dots)$$

are given, respectively, by

$$\bar{a}_{11}\bar{a}_1^j\bar{a}_2^k \text{ var } b_1$$

or

$$\bar{a}_{11}\bar{a}_1^j\bar{a}_2^k \text{ var } b_2$$

and repeating the summation performed to obtain  $\bar{N} = \frac{\sum m_i}{4}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sum_i \text{var } m_i &= 1 + \frac{\bar{a}_{11} (3+5\bar{a}_1 + \bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2 - \bar{a}_1^2 \bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)^2} \\
 &+ \frac{\bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2}{(1-\bar{a}_1)} \left[ \frac{1+3\bar{a}_1 + 3\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2 + \bar{a}_1^2 \bar{a}_2}{(1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)^2} \right] \\
 &+ \frac{\bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^2}{(1-\bar{a}_1)^2} \left[ \frac{1+3\bar{a}_2 + 3\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2 + \bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2^2}{(1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)^2} \right].
 \end{aligned}$$

It, therefore, remains to compute  $2 \sum_{\substack{i \\ j \\ j>i}} (\bar{m}_i \bar{m}_j - \bar{m}_i \bar{m}_j)$ .

Fortunately, it is necessary to compute only seven  $(\bar{m}_i \bar{m}_j - \bar{m}_i \bar{m}_j)$ 's, since the remaining can be obtained by inspection. The procedure employed in calculating these is illustrated for the case of  $(\bar{m}_{10} \bar{m}_{11} - \bar{m}_{10} \bar{m}_{11})$  :

$$(\bar{m}_{10} \bar{m}_{11} - \bar{m}_{10} \bar{m}_{11}) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (\bar{n}_{10i} \bar{n}_{11j} - \bar{n}_{10i} \bar{n}_{11j})$$

where

$$n_{10i} = \underbrace{\sum_{r=1}^{n_0} \frac{1}{a_{11}} \frac{a_1}{a_1} \frac{a_2}{a_2} \frac{a_1}{a_1} \frac{a_2}{a_2} \frac{a_1}{a_1} \dots}_i \text{ terms}_r$$

and

$$n_{11j} = \underbrace{\sum_{s=1}^{n_0} \left[ \frac{1}{a_{11}} \frac{a_1}{a_1} \frac{a_2}{a_2} \frac{a_1}{a_1} \frac{(a_1)}{a_1} \frac{a_2}{a_2} \frac{a_1}{a_1} \dots \right]}_j \text{ terms}_s$$

Here,    denotes identically the same factor in  $n_{10i}$  and  $n_{11j}$ , and the factors bracketed by  $\overline{\quad}$  are to be treated as one, since they correspond to  $i=1$  or  $j=1$ . Since this approach is identical to that employed in Appendix A, it may be observed there that

$$(\overline{n_{10i}n_{11j}} - \overline{n_{10i}}\overline{n_{11j}}) = \overline{(n_{10i}n_{11j})} \Big|_{r=s} ,$$

$$\text{since } \overline{n_0^2} - \overline{n_0}^2 = \overline{n_0} .$$

Moreover, when  $r=s$ ,  $\overline{a_{11}^2} = \overline{a_{11}}$ ,  $\overline{a_1^2} = \overline{a_1}$ , and  $\overline{a_2^2} = \overline{a_2}$ . Consequently,

$$(\overline{m_{10}m_{11}} - \overline{m_{10}}\overline{m_{11}}) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (\overline{n_{10i}n_{11j}}) \Big|_{r=s}$$

$$= \overline{n_0} \frac{\overline{a_{11}} \overline{a_1}^3 \overline{a_2} (1+\overline{a_2}) (5+\overline{a_2} - 4\overline{a_1} \overline{a_2})}{(\overline{1-\overline{a_1} \overline{a_2}})^2} .$$

The other six  $(\overline{m_i m_j} - \overline{m_i} \overline{m_j})$ 's of importance are

$$(\overline{m_{11}m_{12}} - \overline{m_{11}}\overline{m_{12}}) = \overline{a_{11}} \overline{a_1}^4 \overline{a_2} \left( \frac{1+\overline{a_2}}{1-\overline{a_1} \overline{a_2}} \right)^2$$

$$(\overline{m_{10}m_{020}} - \overline{m_{10}}\overline{m_{020}}) = \frac{\overline{a_{11}} \overline{a_1} \overline{a_2} (1+\overline{a_1})}{(1-\overline{a_1} \overline{a_2})} \left[ 3 + \frac{\overline{a_2} (1+\overline{a_1})}{(1-\overline{a_1} \overline{a_2})} \right]$$

$$(\overline{m_{10}m_{021}} - \overline{m_{11}}\overline{m_{021}}) = \overline{a_{11}} \overline{a_1}^3 \overline{a_2} \left( \frac{1+\overline{a_2}}{1-\overline{a_1} \overline{a_2}} \right) \left[ 2 + \frac{(1+\overline{a_2})}{(1-\overline{a_1} \overline{a_2})} \right]$$

$$(\overline{m_{11}m_{020}} - \overline{m_{11}}\overline{m_{020}}) = \frac{\bar{a}_{11}\bar{a}_1^3\bar{a}_2^2(1+\bar{a}_1)(1+\bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1\bar{a}_2)^2}$$

$$(\overline{m_{020}m_{021}} - \overline{m_{020}}\overline{m_{021}}) = \bar{a}_{11}\bar{a}_1^3\bar{a}_2\left(\frac{1+\bar{a}_2}{1-\bar{a}_1\bar{a}_2}\right)(1+\frac{1+\bar{a}_2}{1-\bar{a}_1\bar{a}_2})$$

$$(\overline{m_{20}m_{21}} - \overline{m_{20}}\overline{m_{21}}) = \bar{a}_{11}\bar{a}_1^4\bar{a}_2\left(\frac{1+\bar{a}_2}{1-\bar{a}_1\bar{a}_2}\right)(2+\frac{1+\bar{a}_2}{1-\bar{a}_1\bar{a}_2}) \quad .$$

All other  $(\overline{m_i m_j} - \overline{m_i} \overline{m_j})$ 's may be obtained from these by observing that, for example,

$$(\overline{m_{1i}m_{1j}} - \overline{m_{1i}}\overline{m_{1j}}) = \bar{a}_1(\overline{m_{1i}m_{1(j-1)}} - \overline{m_{1i}}\overline{m_{1(j-1)}}) \quad .$$

$i \geq 1, j \geq 3$

Generating additional  $(\overline{m_i m_j} - \overline{m_i} \overline{m_j})$ 's in this manner and adding the results

$$A: \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j>i}}^{\infty} (\overline{m_{1i}m_{1j}} - \overline{m_{1i}m_{1j}}) = \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^3 \bar{a}_2 (1+\bar{a}_2) (5+\bar{a}_2 - 4\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1) (1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)^2}$$

$$+ \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^4 \bar{a}_2}{(1-\bar{a}_1)^2} \left( \frac{1+\bar{a}_2}{1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2} \right)^2$$

$$B: \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (\overline{m_{10}m_{02j}} - \overline{m_{10}m_{02j}}) = \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^3 \bar{a}_2 (1+\bar{a}_2) (3+\bar{a}_2 - 2\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1) (1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)^2}$$

$$+ \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2 (1+\bar{a}_1) (3-2\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2 + \bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)^2}$$

$$C: \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (\overline{m_{1i}m_{02j}} - \overline{m_{1i}m_{02j}}) = \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^3 \bar{a}_2^2 (1+\bar{a}_1) (1+\bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1) (1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)^2}$$

$$+ \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^5 \bar{a}_2^2}{(1-\bar{a}_1)^2} \left( \frac{1+\bar{a}_2}{1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2} \right)^2$$

$$D: \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} (\overline{m_{10}m_{2j}} - \overline{m_{10}m_{2j}}) = \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^2 (1+\bar{a}_2) (3+\bar{a}_2 - 2\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1) (1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)^2}$$

$$\cdot \frac{(1-\bar{a}_1 + \bar{a}_1^2 \bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1) (1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)^2}$$

$$E: \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (\overline{m_{1i}m_{2j}} - \overline{m_{1i}m_{2j}}) = \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^4 \bar{a}_2 (1-\bar{a}_1 + \bar{a}_1^2 \bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1)^2} \left( \frac{1+\bar{a}_2}{1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2} \right)^2$$

$$F: \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \sum_{\substack{j=0 \\ j > i}}^{\infty} \left( \overline{m_{02i} m_{02j}} - \overline{m_{02i}} \overline{m_{02j}} \right) = \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^3 \bar{a}_2 (1+\bar{a}_2) (2+\bar{a}_2 - \bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1) (1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)^2}$$

$$+ \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^4 \bar{a}_2}{(1-\bar{a}_1)^2} \left( \frac{1+\bar{a}_2}{1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2} \right)^2$$

$$G: \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\substack{j=1 \\ j > i}}^{\infty} \left( \overline{m_{2i} m_{2j}} - \overline{m_{2i}} \overline{m_{2j}} \right) = \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^4 \bar{a}_2}{(1-\bar{a}_1)^2} \left( \frac{1+\bar{a}_2}{1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2} \right) (2 + \frac{1+\bar{a}_2}{1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2})$$

$$+ \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^5 \bar{a}_2}{(1-\bar{a}_1)^2} \left( \frac{1+\bar{a}_2}{1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2} \right)^2$$

$$H: \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \left( \overline{m_{20} m_{02j}} - \overline{m_{20}} \overline{m_{02j}} \right) = \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^2 \bar{a}_2 (1+\bar{a}_1) (1+\bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)^2}$$

$$+ \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^4 \bar{a}_2}{(1-\bar{a}_1)^2} \left( \frac{1+\bar{a}_2}{1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2} \right)^2$$

$$I: \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \left( \overline{m_{2i} m_{02j}} - \overline{m_{2i}} \overline{m_{02j}} \right) = \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^4 \bar{a}_2^2 (1+\bar{a}_1) (1+\bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1) (1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)^2}$$

$$+ \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^6 \bar{a}_2^2}{(1-\bar{a}_1)^2} \left( \frac{1+\bar{a}_2}{1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2} \right)^2$$

$$J: \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (\overline{m_{020}m_{03j}} - \overline{m_{020}m_{03j}}) = \bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^2 \bar{a}_2^2 \left( \frac{1+\bar{a}_1}{1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2} \right)$$

$$+ \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^4 \bar{a}_2^2 (1+\bar{a}_1) (1+\bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1) (1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)^2}$$

$$K: \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (\overline{m_{02i}m_{03j}} - \overline{m_{02i}m_{03j}}) = \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^4 \bar{a}_2^2 (1+\bar{a}_1) (1+\bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1) (1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)^2}$$

$$+ \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^6 \bar{a}_2^2 \left( \frac{1+\bar{a}_2}{1-\bar{a}_1} \right)^2}{(1-\bar{a}_1)^2}$$

$$L: \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (\overline{m_{020}m_{3j}} - \overline{m_{020}m_{3j}}) = \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^3 \bar{a}_2 (1+\bar{a}_1) (1+\bar{a}_2) (1-\bar{a}_1 + \bar{a}_1^2 \bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1) (1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)^2}$$

$$M: \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (\overline{m_{02i}m_{3j}} - \overline{m_{02i}m_{3j}}) = \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^5 \bar{a}_2 (1-\bar{a}_1 + \bar{a}_1^2 \bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1)^2}$$

$$\cdot \left( \frac{1+\bar{a}_2}{1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2} \right)^2$$

$$N: \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (\overline{m_{20}m_{03j}} - \overline{m_{20}m_{03j}}) = \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^2 \bar{a}_2 (1+\bar{a}_1) (1+\bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)^2}$$

$$+ \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^4 \bar{a}_2 \left( \frac{1+\bar{a}_2}{1-\bar{a}_1} \right)^2}{(1-\bar{a}_1)^2}$$

$$O: \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (\overline{m_{2i}m_{03j}} - \overline{m_{2i}m_{03j}}) = \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^2 \bar{a}_2 (1+\bar{a}_1) (1+\bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)^2}$$

$$+ \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^4 \bar{a}_2}{(1-\bar{a}_1)} \left( \frac{1+\bar{a}_2}{1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2} \right)^2$$

$$P: \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (\overline{m_{20}m_{3i}} - \overline{m_{20}m_{3i}}) = \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^3 (1-\bar{a}_1 + \bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1)} \left( \frac{1+\bar{a}_2}{1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2} \right)^2$$

$$Q: \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} (\overline{m_{2i}m_{3j}} - \overline{m_{2i}m_{3j}}) = \frac{\bar{n}_0 \bar{a}_{11} \bar{a}_1^5 \bar{a}_2 (1-\bar{a}_1 + \bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2)}{(1-\bar{a}_1)^2}$$

$$\cdot \left( \frac{1+\bar{a}_2}{1-\bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_2} \right)^2$$

Finally,

$$2 \sum_{\substack{i, j \\ j > i}} (\overline{m_i m_j} - \overline{m_i m_j}) = 2 [A + \frac{1}{1-\bar{a}_1} (B+C+D+E+F+G+H+I) + \frac{1}{(1-\bar{a}_1)^2} (J+K+L+M+N+O+P+Q)]$$

After  $\bar{a}_{11}$ ,  $\bar{a}_1$ , and  $\bar{a}_2$  are calculated using the DC multiplication program of Appendix C, the above results are evaluated, and  $(\text{var } N) - 1$  is plotted vs. M in Figures 44 to 46.

APPENDIX C  
DC MULTIPLICATION SIMULATION PROGRAM

The DC multiplication simulation program performs calculations of carrier multiplication resulting from impact ionization in p-n step junctions. Its input variables are:

NSETS : number of diodes whose DC V-I characteristics will be calculated

NVREV : number of reverse voltages for which the DC multiplication will be calculated

XNA :  $N_A - N_D$  = net doping density on p-side ( $\text{cm}^{-3}$ )

XND :  $N_D$  = net doping density on n-side ( $\text{cm}^{-3}$ )

ALPHAL : electron ionization rate constants: adjusted

B1 : ionization rate is given by  $\alpha' = \text{ALPHAL} e^{-\frac{B1}{E}}$

ALPHA2 : hole ionization rate constants: adjusted ionization rate for  $E \leq 4 \times 10^5$  V/cm is given by

B2 :  $\beta_1' = \text{ALPHA2} e^{-\frac{B2}{E}}$

ALPHA3 : hole ionization rate constants: adjusted ionization rate for  $E > 4 \times 10^5$  V/cm is given by

B3 :  $\beta_2' = \text{ALPHA3} e^{-\frac{B3}{E}}$

PHI :  $\phi$ , junction built-in potential

DV :  $dV = -q \int_{x_k}^{x_k + \Delta x_k} E(x) dx$ , where  $\Delta x_k$  is the length of the k-th interval in the  $E(x)$  vs.  $x$  diagram

TV : tunneling potential  
EV : electron threshold potential for ionization  
HV : hole threshold potential for ionization  
SLOPE : the tunneling current,  $I_t$ , is given by

$$I_t = I_o e^{-\frac{SLOPE}{V_r + \phi}}$$

VREV : reverse voltage for which DC multiplication  
will be calculated

The different portions for the program perform the following computations. Statements 29 to 66 divide the p and n sides of the electric field triangle into equipotential intervals, DXN(K), DXP(K), and compute the electric field values, EN(K), EP(K), at the end points of the intervals. Statements 67 to 95 number these quantities consecutively, starting on the p side with the first interval and the first electric field value. Statements 96 to 164 compute the approximate values of the ionization probabilities for electrons and holes,  $dP_n(k) = XINTN(K)$  and  $dP_n(k) = XINTP(K)$ , in each interval, DX(K). The spatial distribution of the tunneling current,  $dI_t(k) = TI(k)$ , is computed in statements 173 to 219.

The electron initiated multiplication is calculated in statements 220 to 241, 251 to 266, and 276 to 287. Statements 220 to 225 shift the tunneling current by  $\frac{TV}{DV}$  intervals to obtain the free electron current. (In "conventional calculations" TV is set to one DV.) The book-

keeping algorithms which trace the electrons and holes back and forth across the SCR and compute the DC multiplication on each transit are contained in statements 237 to 241 and 262 to 266. (If the available storage is sufficiently large, the encremental increase in current,  $\text{DIE}(N)$  and  $\text{DIH}(N)$ , resulting from carrier multiplication in each interval can be replaced by  $\text{DI}(K,N)$ , where  $K$  is the transit number and  $N$  is the interval number. Combining  $\sum_k \text{DI}(K,N)$  with the interval number as function of distance  $k$  then yields the distribution of carrier multiplication as function of distance across the SCR.)

Statements 242 to 250 and 267 to 275 retrieve and save the electron multiplication in each interval on the 10-th and 12-th transits, and the hole multiplication on the 11-th and 13-th transits. These quantities are used later in the program to compute the values of  $\bar{a}_1, \bar{a}_2$ , and  $\bar{a}_3$ , the first, second, and third ionization probabilities. (There is nothing special about these transits. Any other corresponding set of transits for which the multiplication has achieved a steady state condition would do as well.)

The multiplication initiated by holes left in the valence band when electrons tunnel to the conduction band is calculated in statements 293 to 338. They are essentially mirror images of the statements handling the electron initiated multiplication. The total DC multiplication is then the sum of the electron initiated and the hole initiated multi-

plication. It is denoted by SUM and computed in statement 342. This ends the DC multiplication simulation.

The remainder of the program is devoted to the calculation of the ionization probabilities,  $\bar{a}_1$ ,  $\bar{a}_2$ ,  $\bar{a}_3$ , and to the evaluation of the final results of the up to two ionization per SCR transit noise theory.

The electron ionization probabilities are computed in statements 345 to 421. The probability of the first ionization,  $\bar{a}_1$ , is computed by taking the multiplication due to holes on the 11-th and 13-th transits and calculating the electron ionizations on the 12-th and 14-th transits, allowing no more than one ionization. This is performed in statements 345 to 356 and 379 to 390. The square root of the ratio of the first electron ionizations on the 14-th transit, E1, to the first electron ionizations on the 12-th transit, D1, is  $\bar{a}_1$ . If this calculation is repeated starting with the first electron ionizations on the 12-th and 14-th transits (the results of the computation just completed), as done in statements 358 to 367 and 391 to 401,  $\bar{a}_2$  is obtained. Repeating the calculations once more in statements 368 to 378 and 402 to 412 leads to  $\bar{a}_3$ .

The corresponding hole ionization probabilities are computed in the same manner, but starting with the electron multiplication on 10-th and 12-th transits. These calculations are carried out in statements 452 to 519.

Because the two ionizations noise theory does not distinguish between electron and hole ionization probabilities, it is now necessary to evaluate the "average" ionization probabilities to be used in the noise theory. They are simply the square root of the product of the electron and hole ionization probabilities, as given in statements 558 to 560.

According to Appendix B, the probability of the second ionization on the first transit is zero for all reverse voltages for which the probability of the third ionization is zero. Hence,  $\bar{a}_{11} = S(2)$ , the probability of ionization on the first transit.

Now, that the ionization probabilities  $\bar{a}_{11}$ ,  $\bar{a}_1$  and  $\bar{a}_2$  are known, the theoretical expressions for noise resulting from up to two ionizations per carrier transit across the SCR may be evaluated. This is performed in statements 561 to 577. This completes the program.

The calculations described above yield the following ionization probabilities for the 1N751 diode:

Diode reverse voltage	$\bar{a}_{11}$	$\bar{a}_1$	$\bar{a}_2$
5.05	0.485	0.909	0.114
5.0	0.474	0.897	0.107
4.95	0.462	0.886	0.0994
4.9	0.451	0.874	0.0926
4.8	0.428	0.851	0.0796
4.7	0.403	0.829	0.0676

Diode reverse voltage	$\bar{a}_{11}$	$\bar{a}_1$	$\bar{a}_2$
4.6	0.378	0.807	0.0567
4.5	0.353	0.786	0.0469
4.4	0.327	0.766	0.0381
4.3	0.299	0.746	0.0304
4.2	0.273	0.728	0.0237
4.1	0.245	0.710	0.0180
4.0	0.218	0.693	0.0133
3.9	0.190	0.677	0.0094
3.8	0.163	0.661	0.0064

The range and functional dependence of the above values are typical of the other diodes employed in this study. Consequently, the approximation that  $\bar{a}_2 \ll \bar{a}_1$ , invoked in the derivation of the up to two ionizations per SCR transit noise theory, is justified.

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0001
0002      DIMENSION XN(600),VN(600),EMAX(600),DXN(600),EN(600),DXP(600),
0003      EXP(600),EP(600),E(-900),XINTN(-900),XINTP(-900),DX(-900),
0004      NVREV(-900),T(-900),S(30),S0IN(900),S0IP(900),SSDI(900),
0005      READ(5,120) T,DX(-120),S0IN(120),SSDI(120)
0006      READ(5,120) (SFTS,NVREV
0007      13      DO 1000 I,N=1,NSETS
0008      14      READ(5,120) XNA,XND,ALPHA1,R1,ALPHA2,R2,ALPHA3,R3
0009      15      READ(5,120) DV,TV,EV,MV,SLOPE
0010      16      READ(5,120) (VREV(I),I=1,NVREV)
0011      17      READ(5,120) (F5(I),I=1,NSFTS)
0012      18      DPRTNT(14,(VREV(I)),I=1,NVREV)
0013      19      FORHAT((VREV(I)),I=1,NVREV)
0014      20      FORHAT((VREV(I)),I=1,NVREV)
0015      21      EPSSPFILE=1,7
0016      22      EPSSPFILE=1,14
0017      23      EPSSPFILE=1,6E-19
0018      24      W1=SQRT((2.*EPSSEL*EPS0/G)*((XNA+XND)/(XNA*XND)))
0019      25      DO 1000 NV=1,NVREV
0020      26      K=1+SQRT(PHI+VREV(NV))
0021      27      EMAXX=(2.*SQRT(PHI+VREV(NV)))/W1
0022      28      TF(FMAXX,GE,1.2E4) GO TO 98
0023      29      DPRTNT(97)
0024      30      FORHAT(IX,'MAXIMUM FIELD VALUE TOO SMALL')
0025      31      STOP
0026      32      XNA=(XNA/(XNA+XND))*W
0027      33      XPP=XNA-XNN
0028      34      VN=(XNA/(XNA+XND))*(PHI+VREV(NV))
0029      35      VPP=PHI+(VREV(NV))-XNA
0030      36      COMPUTE DX AND E FOR N SIDE
0031      37      XN(1)=XNN
0032      38      VN(1)=VN
0033      39      EMAX(1)=EMAXX
0034      40      K=VN/DV
0035      41      IF (K-1) 101,99,99
0036      42      DO 100 I=1,K
0037      43      JJ=I+1
0038      44      DXN(I,I)=XN(I,I)*(1.-SQRT(1.-DV/VN(I,I)))
0039      45      EN(I,I)=EMAX(I,I)*(1.-DXN(I,I)/XN(I,I))
0040      46      VN(JJ)=VN(I,I)-DV
0041      47      XN(JJ)=VN(I,I)-DXN(I,I)
0042      48      EMAX(JJ)=EN(I,I)
0043      49      CONTINUE
0044      50      DXN(K+1)=2.*(VNN-K*DVA)/EN(K)
0045      51      GO TO 102
0046      52      CONTINUE
0047      53      JJ=1
0048      54      DXN(JJ)=2.*VNN/EMAXX
0049      55      COMPUTE DX AND E FOR P SIDE
0050      56      XPP(1)=XPP
0051      57      VPP(1)=VPP
0052      58      EMAX(1)=EMAXX
0053      59      K=VPP/DV
0054      60      IF (K-1) 201,199,199
0055      61      DO 200 I=1,M
0056      62      J=1
0057      63      EXP(I,I)=EXP(I,I)*(1.-SQRT(1.-DV/VP(I,I)))
0058      64      ENP(I,I)=EMAX(I,I)*(1.-DXP(I,I)/XP(I,I))
0059      65      VP(JJ)=VPP-I-DV
0060      66      XPP(JJ)=EXP(I,I)-DXP(I,I)
0061      67      EMAX(JJ)=EP(I,I)
0062      68      CONTINUE
0063      69      GO TO 202
0064      70      DXP(M+1)=2.**(VPP-M*DVA)/EP(M)
0065      71      CONTINUE
0066      72      COMPUTE DX
0067      73      J=N+1
0068      74      I=J+1
0069      75      DO 300 N=1,II
0070      76      DX(N)=DXP(J,N)

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0071      JN=JN-1
0073      CONTINUE
0074      JJJ=JJ+K+2
0075      JJJ=JJ+2
0076      DO 310 NE=JA,JJJ
0077      DX(N)=DXN(JT)
0078      JT=JT+1
0079      CONTINUE
0080      C      RENNUMBER E
0081      300      IF(M) 321,321,319
0082      JN=M
0083      JN=M
0084      DO 320 NE=1,JO
0085      E(NE)=EP(JN)
0086      JN=JN-1
0087      CONTINUE
0088      321      E(+1)=EMAXX
0089      TF (K) 330,330,322
0090      JFEU+2
0091      JFEU+2
0092      JP=1
0093      DO 330 NE=JE,JFE
0094      EN(F)=EN(JP)
0095      JP=JP+1
0096      330      COMPUTE IONIZATION SUBINTEGRALS FOR ELECTRONS
0097      COMPUTE START AND STOP POINTS FOR TRAPEZOID METHOD OF APPROXIMATING
0098      SUBINTEGRALS
0099      B=MAX1(B1,A2,B3)
0100      I=J+K+1
0101      331      DO 340 I=1,II
0102      KESTAR=I
0103      BDE=BR/E(I)
0104      IF(BDE.LE.100.) GO TO 341
0105      341      DO 342 I=1,II
0106      KSTOP=IJ,I
0107      BDE=BR/E(KSTOP)
0108      IF(BDE.LE.100.) GO TO 343
0109      342      CONTINUE
0110      C      SET XINTN'S AND XINTP'S TO ZERO FOR FIELD VALUES WHICH ARE TOO SMALL
0111      343      I=KESTAR-1
0112      IF(I.LT.0) GO TO 345
0113      K=M+1
0114      DO 344 I=1,KK
0115      XINTN(I)=0
0116      XINTP(I)=0
0117      I=I-1
0118      IF(I.LT.0) GO TO 345
0119      344      CONTINUE
0120      I=KESTOP+2
0121      IF((JJJ-KESTOP+1.LE.0) GO TO 347
0122      KK=K+1
0123      DO 346 I=1,KK
0124      XINTN(I)=0
0125      XINTP(I)=0
0126      I=I+1
0127      IF((JJJ-I).LT.0) GO TO 347
0128      346      CONTINUE
0129      C      TRIANGLE APPROXIMATION FOR FIRST AND LAST NON ZERO XINTN.
0130      347      XINTN(KESTAR)=(X(KESTAR)*ALPHA1*EXP(-B1/E(KESTAR)))/2.
0131      XINTN(KESTOP+1)=(DX(KESTOP+1)*ALPHA1*EXP(-B1/E(KESTOP)))/2.
0132      C      TRAPEZOID METHOD USED FOR REMAINING XINTN'S
0133      IF(KESTOP-KESTAR.LT. 1) GO TO 401
0134      I=KESTOP-1
0135      DO 400 I=KESTAR,II
0136      J=I+1
0137      XINTN(J)=DX(J)*ALPHA1*(EXP(-B1/E(I))+EXP(-B1/E(J)))/2.
0138      400      CONTINUE
0139      COMPUTES FIRST NON ZERO XINTP
0140      I=(KESTOP-KESTAR)/4.51 GO TO 402
0141      XINTP(KESTAR)=X(X(KESTAR)*ALPHA3*EXP(-B3/E(KESTAR)))/2.
0142      GO TO 403
0143      402      XINTP(KESTAR)=(DX(KESTAR)*ALPHA2*EXP(-B2/E(KESTAR)))/2.

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C COMPUTE LAST NON ZERO XINTP
403 IF((KESTOP+1)-LF<=4.E5) GO TO 404
XINTP=(KESTOP+1)*(DX*(KESTOP+1)*ALPHA3*EXP(-B3/E(KESTOP)))/2.
404 XINTP=(KESTOP+1)*(DX*(KESTOP+1)*ALPHA2*EXP(-B2/E(KESTOP)))/2.
C USE TRAPEZOID APPROXIMATION FOR REMAINING XINTP'S WHILE CONSIDERING FIELD
412 USE TUES
XINTP=KESTOP - KESTAR .LT. 1) GO TO 501
413 IF(KESTOP .LT. 1) GO TO 501
414 DO 500 I=KESTAR,II
415
416 IF(ZE(I)) .LE. 4.E51 GO TO 451
417 XINTP(J)=DX*J*ALPHA3*(EXP(-B3/E(I))+EXP(-B3/E(J)))/2.
418 XINTP(500)=0
419 XINTP(J)=DX*J*ALPHA2*(EXP(-B2/E(I))+EXP(-B2/E(J)))/2.
420 CONTINUE
421
422 PRINT 19, VREV(MV)
423 FORMAT(11,72)VREV = ',F5.3)
424 PRINT 15, XNA,XND,ALPHA1,B1,ALPHA2,B2,ALPHA3,B3
425 FORMAT(74,1X,A1,72,1X,D7.2,T2,1ALPHA1,T40,TBETA1,/,4(1X,E10.4,4X)/
1T32*(E10.4,5X)/T32,2(E10.4,5X))
426 PRINT 16, PH1,DV,TV,EV,HV
427 FORMAT(1X,'PH1 = ',F5.3,5X,'DV = ',F5.3,5X,'TV = ',F5.3,5X,'EV =
1,F5.3,5X,'HV = ',F5.3)
428 PRINT 18, M
429 FORMAT(11,1X,'M = ',I3)
430 PRINT 17, FMAXX
431 FORMAT(11,1X,'PEAK FIELD IN JUNCTION = ',E10.4,3X,'VOLTS/CM')
432 FORMAT(11,1X,'JUNCTION WIDTH = ',E10.4,3X,'CM')
C PRINT STATEMENT FOR DX,XINTN,XINTP,AND E GOES HERE
433 NT0=TV/DV+1.
434 NT1=TV/DV+1
435 NFO=EV/DV+1.
436 NET=ED+1
437 NHD=HV/DV+1.
438 JHD=JJJ+NHD
439 JVG=JJJ-1
440 JHHD=JJJ-NHD
C COMPUTE DISTRIBUTION OF TUNNELING PROBABILITY
C COMPUTE START AND STOP POINTS FOR TRAPEZOID METHOD OF APPROX SUBINTEGRALS
441 I=1
442 IJZ=I+1
443 DO 502 T=1,II
KESTAR=I
BNE=GAE(I)
444 IF (AEE.LE.50.) GO TO 503
445 CONTINUE
446 DO 503 T=1,IIJ
KESTOP=JJZ-T
BNE=GAE(KESTOP)
447 IF (AEE.LE.50.) GO TO 505
448 CONTINUE
C SET TUNNELING PROBABILITY TO ZERO FOR SMALL FIELD VALUES
449 I=KESTAR-1
450 IF(TI,LE.0) GO TO 507
451 KK=M+
452 DO 506 T=1,KK
453 TI(T)=0.
454 IF(TI,LE.0) GO TO 507
455 CONTINUE
456
457 I=KESTOP+2
458 IF (JHD-KESTOP,LE.0) GO TO 509
459 KK=K+1
460 DO 508 I=1,KK
461 TI(I)=0.
462 IF(TI,LE.0) GO TO 509
463 CONTINUE
464
465 TRAP1= APPROXIMATION FOR FIRST AND LAST TUNNELING SUBINTEGRAL
466 TI(KESTAR)=(DX*(KESTAR)*EXP(-G/E(KESTAR)))/2.
467 TI(KESTOP+1)=(DX*(KESTOP+1)*EXP(-G/E(KESTOP)))/2.

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0205      C      TRAPZOID APPROX FOR REMAINING SUBINTEGRALS
0206      IF (KESTOP-KESTAR,LT.1) GO TO 511
0207      IT=KESTAR
0208      DO 510 I=KESTAR,IT
0209      J=I
0210      T(I)=(DX(J)*(EXP(-G/E(I))+EXP(-G/E(J))))/2.
0211      510  CONTINUE
0212      C      NORMALIZE TUNNELING PROBABILITY FOR EACH SUBINTERVAL
0213      SUMTP=0.
0214      DO 512 I=1,IT
0215      SUMTP=SUMTP+T(I)
0216      512  CONTINUE
0217      DI=KESTOPA1
0218      DO 513 I=1,IT
0219      DI=(T(I)-T(I))/SUMTP
0220      513  CONTINUE
0221      C      TUNNELING PROBABILITY PRINT STATEMENTS GO HERE
0222      ELECTRON INITIATED MULTIPLICATION
0223      KESTAR TUNNELING PROBABILITY TO OBTAIN TUNNELING CURRENT
0224      DO 550 N=1,NTD
0225      OTE(N)=0.
0226      550  CONTINUE
0227      DO 551 N=NET,JJJ
0228      OTE(N)=T(N-NTD)
0229      551  CONTINUE
0230      DO 552 N=NET,JJJ
0231      S(1)*S(1)+DIE(N)
0232      552  COMPUTE ELECTRON INITIATED MULTIPLICATION
0233      DO 560 N=1,NEO
0234      KKEK=0
0235      DO 561 N=1,NEO
0236      KKEK=1
0237      DO 562 N=1,NEO
0238      XTE(N)=DIE(N-NEO)+2.*DTH(N-NEO)
0239      DTH(N)=EXTNTN(N)*XI
0240      RIXXI=DTH(N)
0241      561  CONTINUE
0242      IF (K=10) 563,520,522
0243      520  DO 521 N=1,JJJ
0244      VNC(N)=DTH(N)
0245      521  CONTINUE
0246      GO TO 563
0247      522  TO (K-12) 563,523,563
0248      523  DO 524 N=1,JJJ
0249      VNC(N)=DTH(N)
0250      524  CONTINUE
0251      SCK1=0.
0252      DO 563 N=NET,JJJ
0253      S(1)*S(X)+DIE(N)
0254      563  CONTINUE
0255      IF (SCK1.LE.1.E-9) GO TO 581
0256      KPKP=1
0257      KKEKPO
0258      DO 570 N=JMH0,JJJ
0259      DIE(N)=0.
0260      570  CONTINUE
0261      R1=0.
0262      DO 571 N=JMH0,JMH
0263      XTE(R1+DTH(JMH-N)+2.*DTE(JMH-N))
0264      DTE(JJJ-N)=EXTNTP(JJJ-N)*XI
0265      R1=XI-DTE(JJJ-N)
0266      571  CONTINUE
0267      IF (K=10) 586,587,589
0268      587  DO 588 N=1,JJJ
0269      XTE(N)=DTE(N)
0270      588  CONTINUE
0271      GO TO 586
0272      IF (K=12) 586,590,586
0273      589  DO 590 N=1,JJJ
0274      XTE(N)=DTE(N)
0275

```



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    DTH(N)=0.
    CONTINUE.
720    RT=0.
    DI=0.
    DO 730 N=NET, JJJ
    XI=RI+DTE(N-NEO)
    DTH(N)=XINTN(N)*XI
    RT=XI-DTH(N)
    DI=DI+DTH(N)
721    CONTINUE.
    DO 731 N=1, JJJ
    DTE(N)=0.
    CONTINUE.
    RT=0.
    D2=0.
    DO 740 N=NET, JJJ
    XI=RI+DTH(N-NEO)
    DTE(N)=XINTN(N)*XI
    RI=XI-DTE(N)
    D2=D2+DTE(N)
740    CONTINUE.
    DO 741 N=1, JJJ
    DTH(N)=0.
    CONTINUE.
741    RT=0.
    D3=0.
    DO 750 N=NET, JJJ
    XI=RI+DTE(N-NEO)
    DTH(N)=XINTN(N)*XI
    RI=XI-DTH(N)
    D3=D3+DTH(N)
750    CONTINUE.
    DO 760 N=1, JJJ
    DTE(N)=XPI(N)
    DTH(N)=0.
    CONTINUE.
760    RT=0.
    E1=0.
    DO 770 N=NET, JJJ
    XTEP+DTE(N-NEO)
    DTH(N)=XINTN(N)*XI
    RI=XI-DTH(N)
    E1=E1+DTH(N)
770    CONTINUE.
    DO 771 N=1, JJJ
    DTE(N)=0.
    CONTINUE.
771    RT=0.
    E2=0.
    DO 780 N=NET, JJJ
    XTEP+DTE(N-NEO)
    DTE(N)=XINTN(N)*XI
    RI=RT-XE2+DTE(N)
    E2=E2+DTE(N)
780    CONTINUE.
    DO 781 N=1, JJJ
    DTH(N)=0.
    CONTINUE.
781    RT=0.
    E3=0.
    DO 790 N=NET, JJJ
    XI=RI+DTE(N-NEO)
    DTH(N)=XINTN(N)*XI
    RI=RT-XE3+DTH(N)
    E3=E3+DTH(N)
790    CONTINUE.
    RATIO1=E2/D1
    RATIO2=D3/D1
    RATIO3=F2/E1
    RATIO4=E3/E1
    A1=SQRT(E1/D1)
    G1=A1
    A2=RATIO1*A1
    R2=A2
    RATIO5=G11/A1
    PRINT 780

```

```

789  FORMAT(//,1X,'NOIRE PARAMETERS COMPUTED FROM ELECTRON IONIZATION')
790  PRINT 799,111
799  FORMAT(799,111,141= ',E10.4)
800  PRINT 800,101
801  FORMAT(//,1X,'D1 = ',E10.4)
802  PRINT 802,102
803  FORMAT(//,1X,'D2 = ',E10.4)
804  PRINT 804,103
805  FORMAT(//,1X,'D3 = ',E10.4)
806  PRINT 806,104
807  FORMAT(//,1X,'D5/D1 = ',E10.4)
808  PRINT 808,105
809  FORMAT(//,1X,'D2/E1 = ',E10.4)
810  PRINT 810,106
811  FORMAT(//,1X,'D4/E1 = ',E10.4)
812  PRINT 812,107
813  FORMAT(//,1X,'E3/E1 = ',E10.4)
814  PRINT 814,108
815  FORMAT(//,1X,'A1 = ',E10.4)
816  PRINT 816,109
817  PRINT 817,110
818  PRINT 818,111
819  PRINT 819,112
820  PRINT 820,113
821  PRINT 821,114
822  PRINT 822,115
823  PRINT 823,116
824  PRINT 824,117
825  PRINT 825,118
826  PRINT 826,119
827  PRINT 827,120
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830  PRINT 830,123
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998  PRINT 998,291
999  PRINT 999,292

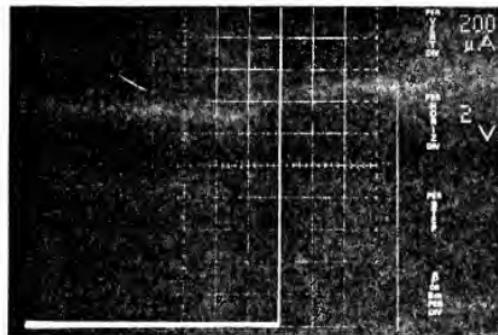
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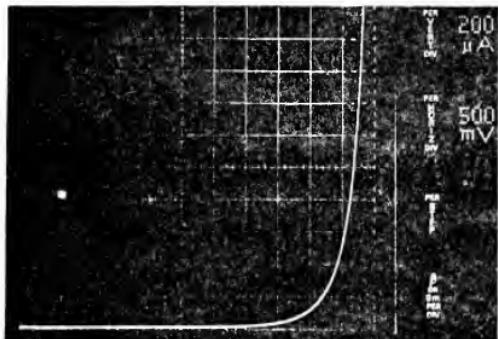
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0574 F22=(2.*X*Y**2*C/(D**2*F))*(2.*D*F+Y*Z*(F*(3.*B+Y)+D*(C+4.*F)))
0575 F23=(2.*X*Y*Z*C/(D**2)*(3.*C+Z*D))
0576 F24=(X*(C**2+F**2)+Y**2*(3.*C+Y*Z*D)+Y*Z*(1.*C+Y**2*Z)+1.Y**2*(1.+3.*Z**2+Y**2*Z)*(D+2.*Y*Z))
0577 XNOISE=F20+F21+F22+F23+F24
0578 PRINT F20,XMULT
0579 820 FORMAT(1X,1DC, MULTIFICATION FROM NOISE PARAMETERS = 1,E10.4)
0580 PRINT F21,XCISE
0581 821 FORMAT(1X,1DC, MULTIFICATION FACTOR = 1,E10.4)
0582 1000 CONTINUE
0583 STOP
0584 END

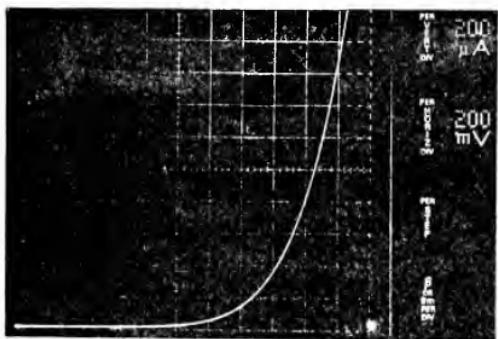
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a. Dickson 1N3025



b. CDC 1N752



c. TI 1N4372

Figure 1. Typical voltage-current characteristics of commercially available diodes

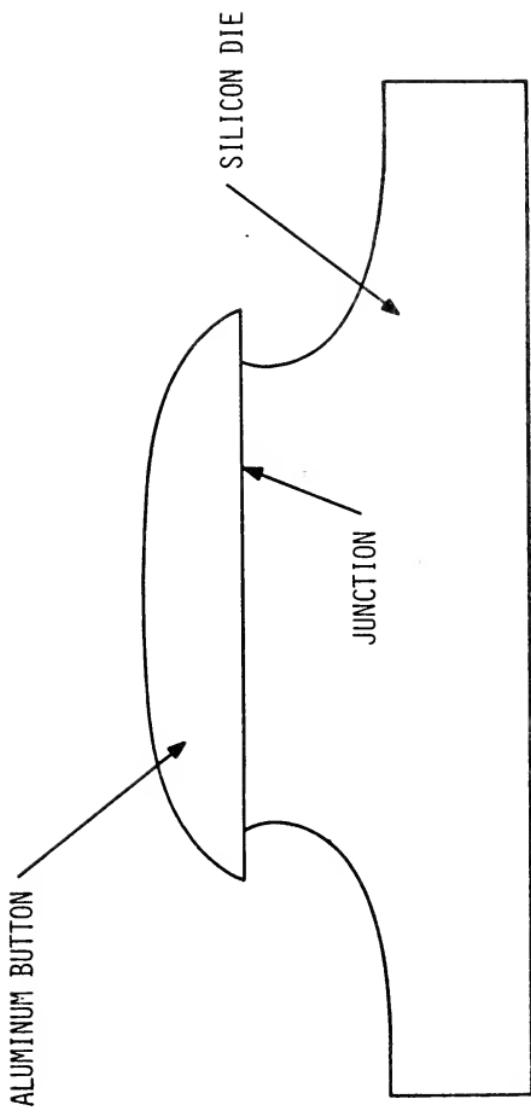


Figure 2. Diode vertical cross section

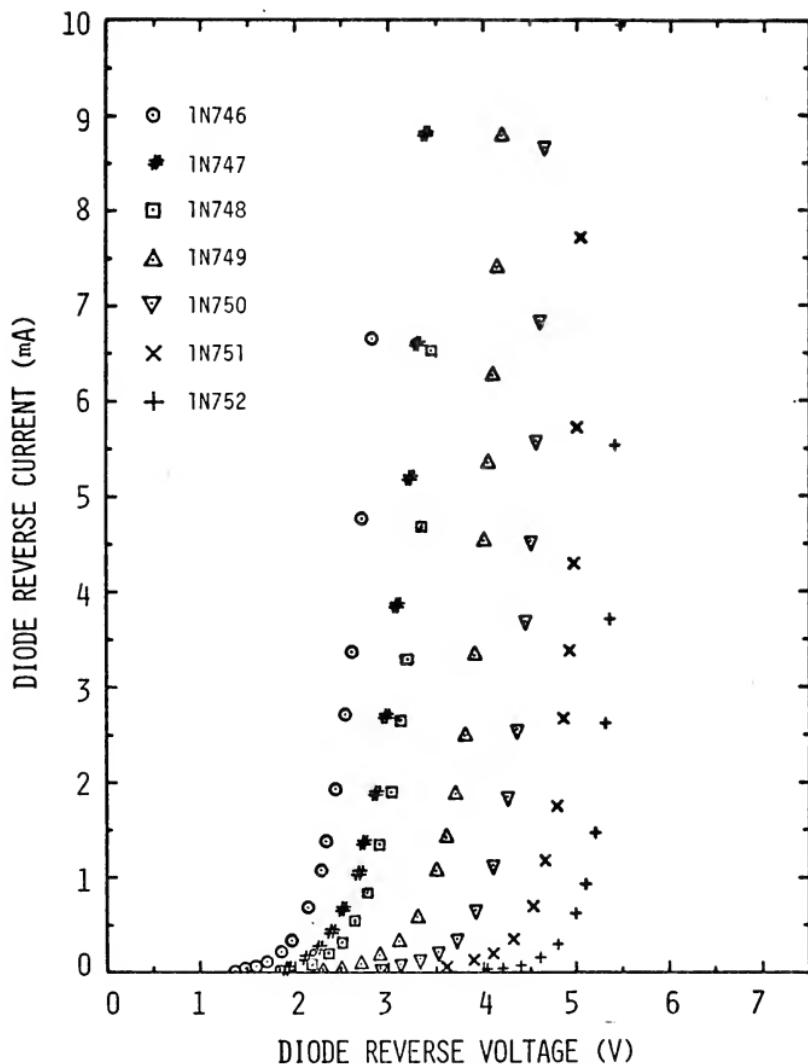


Figure 3. DC V-I characteristics of diodes employed in this study

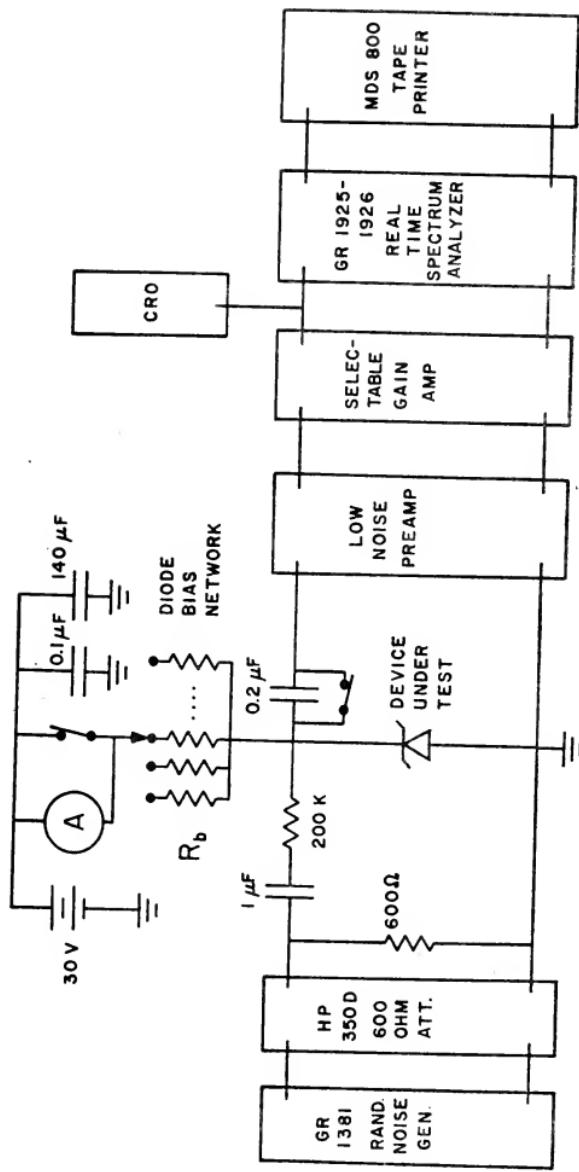
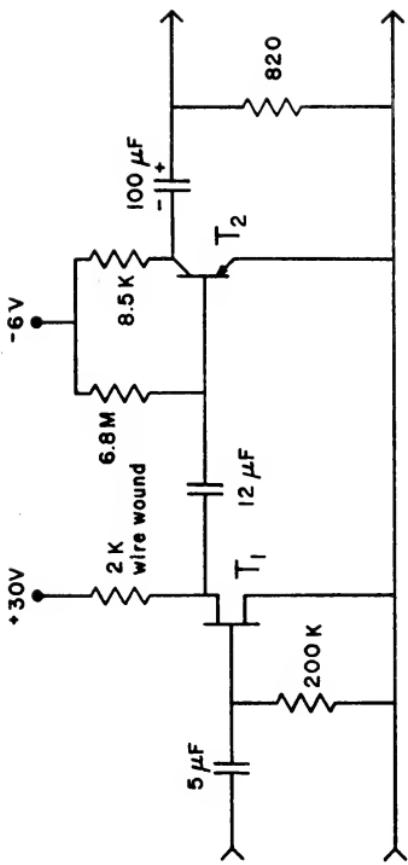


Figure 4. Diode noise measurement system



$T_1$ :  $T_1$  SFB 8558       $V_{DS} = 2.7$  v

$T_2$ :  $2N3799$        $V_{CE} = -3.0$  v

Figure 5. Low noise preamplifier

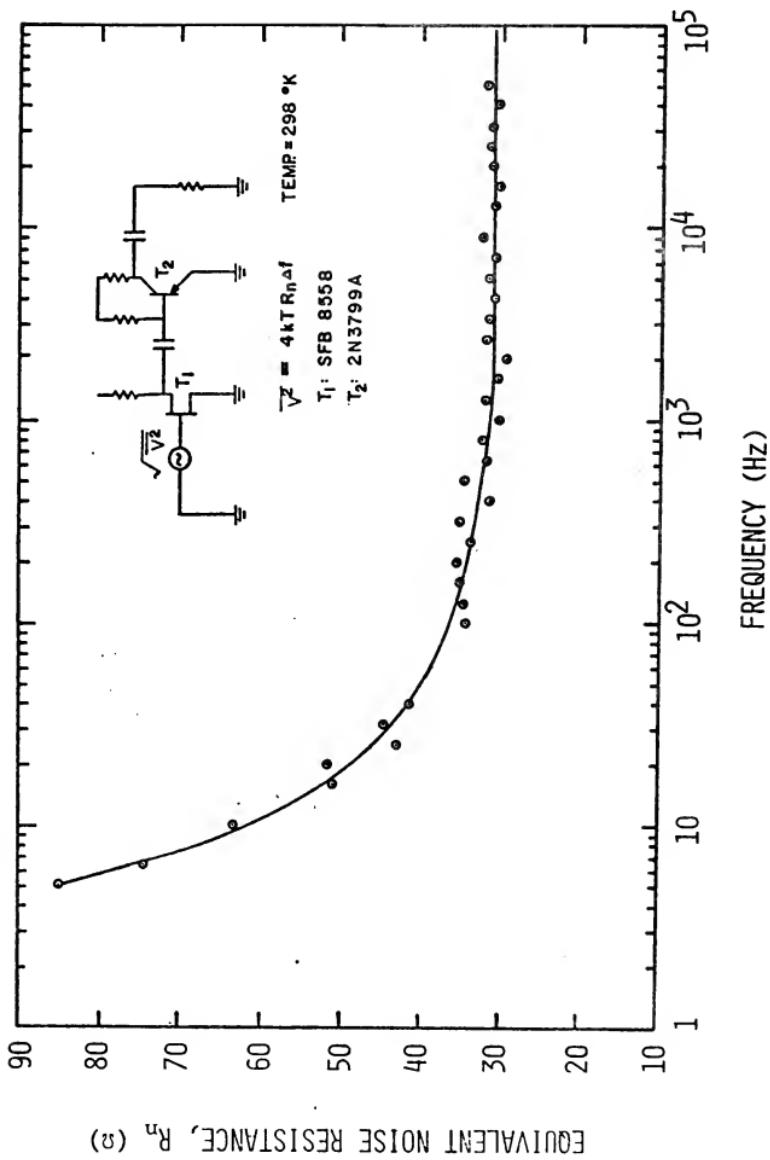


Figure 6. Preamplifier equivalent noise resistance

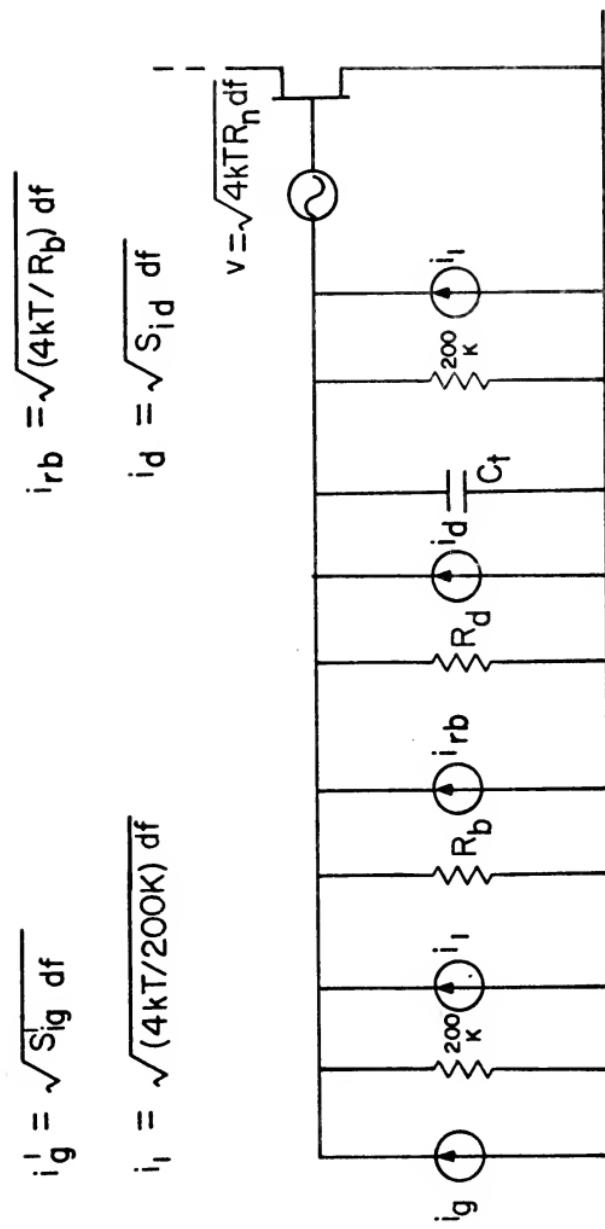


Figure 7. Noise measurement system equivalent input circuit

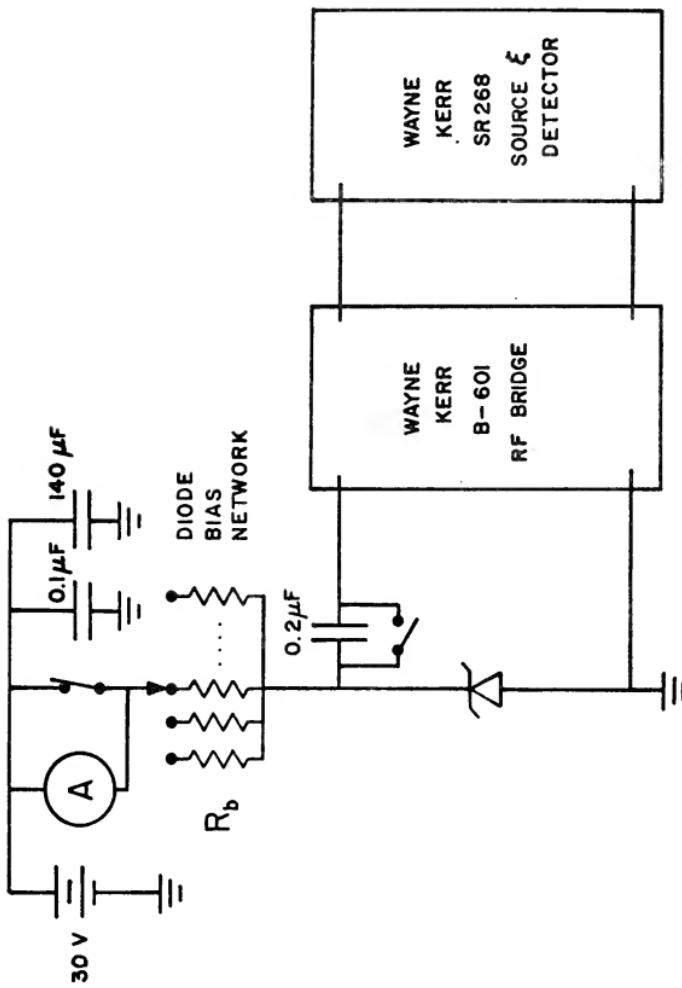


Figure 8. Diode dynamic impedance measurement setup



Scale: 1 cm =  $3.13 \times 10^5$  Å

Figure 9. Typical alloy junction surface (diode 1N749)

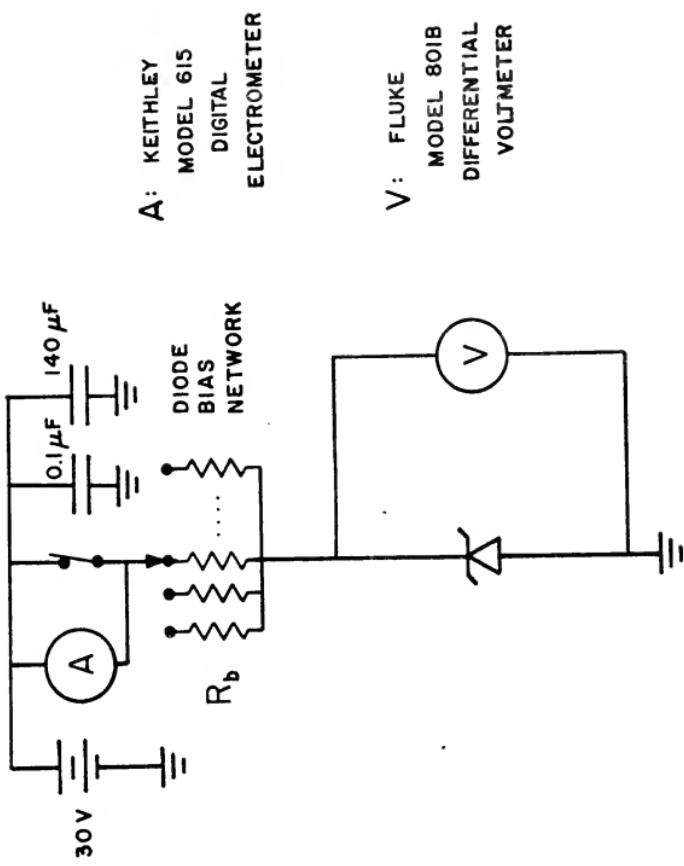


Figure 10. Diode DC V-I measurement setup

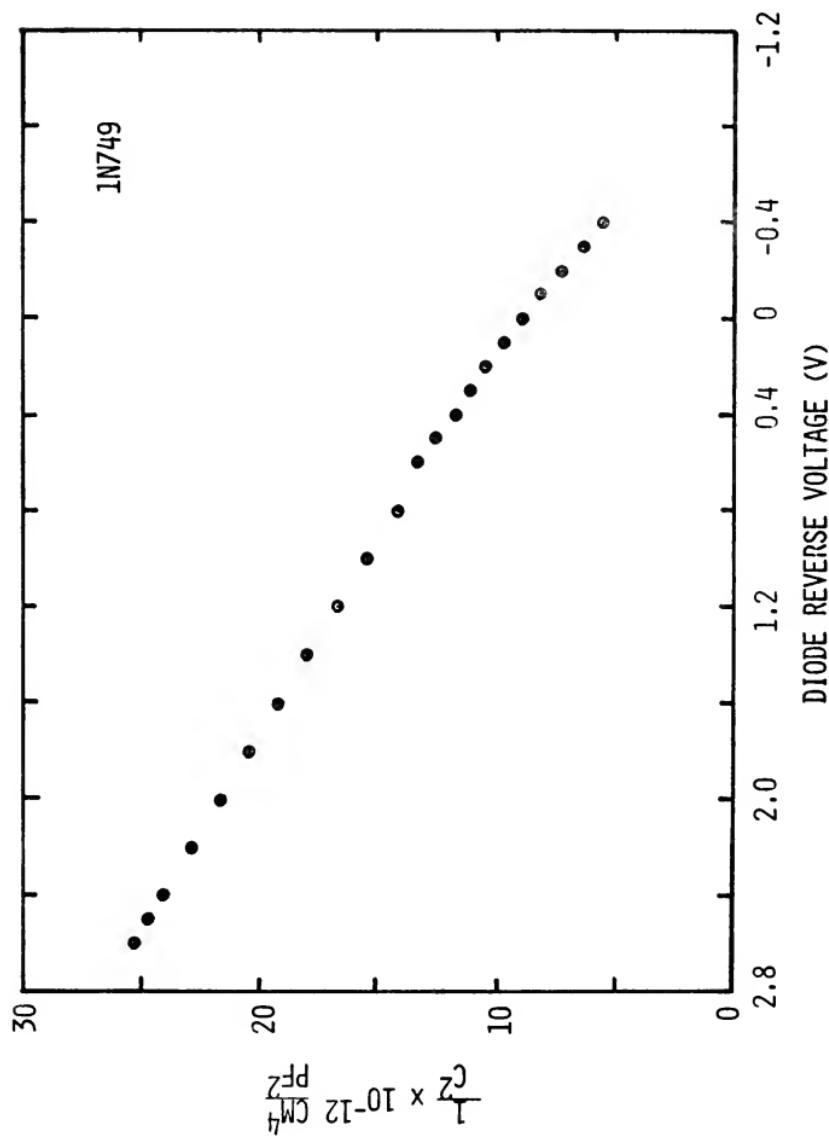


Figure 11. Junction capacitance: diode 1N749

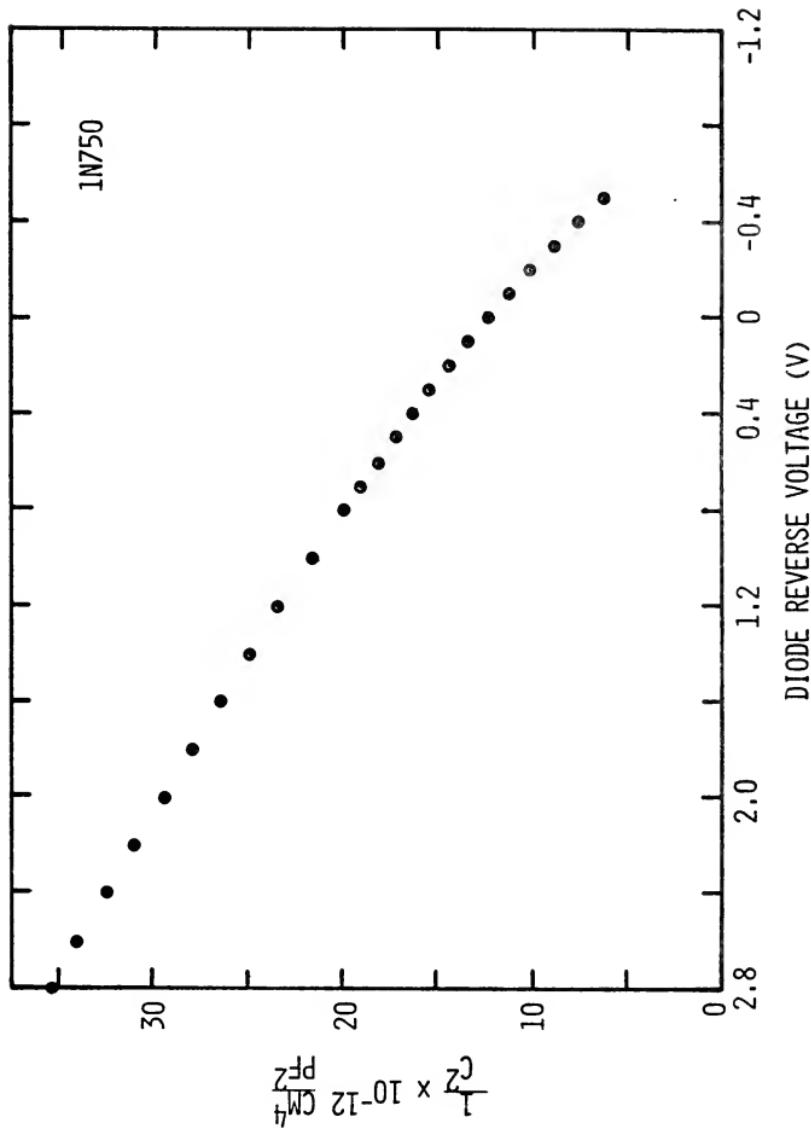


Figure 12. Junction capacitance: diode 1N750

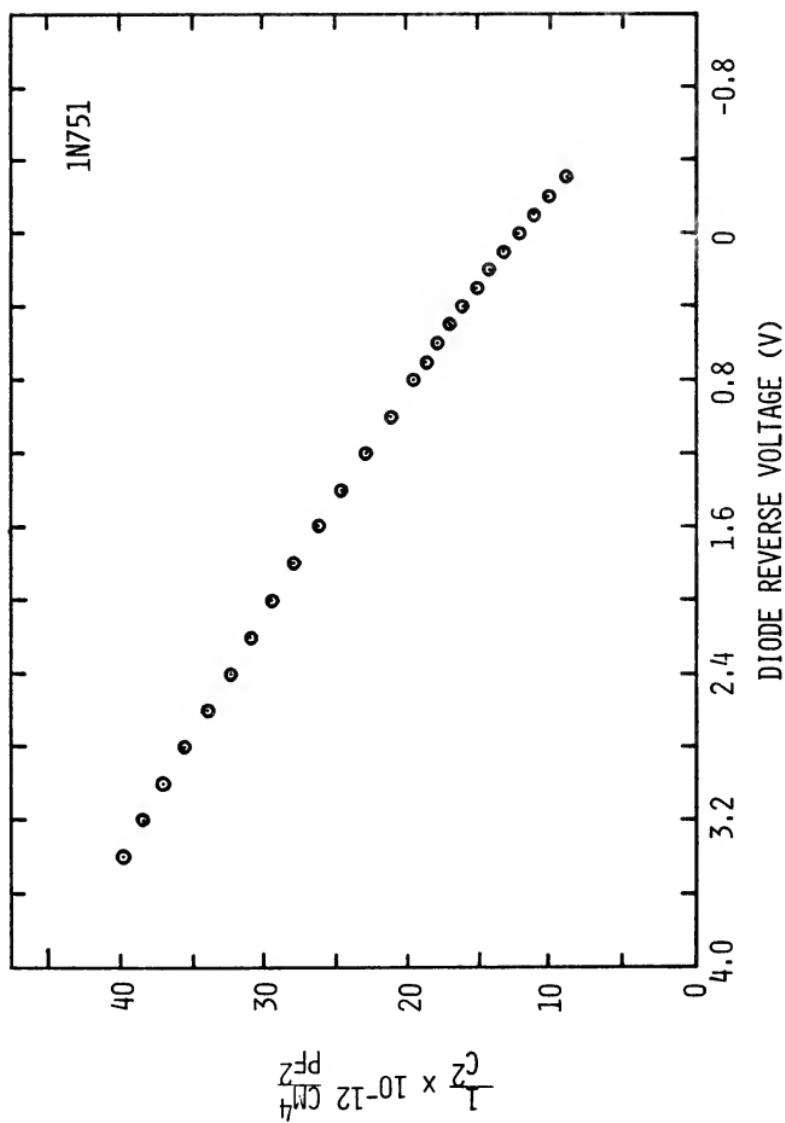


Figure 13. Junction capacitance: diode 1N751

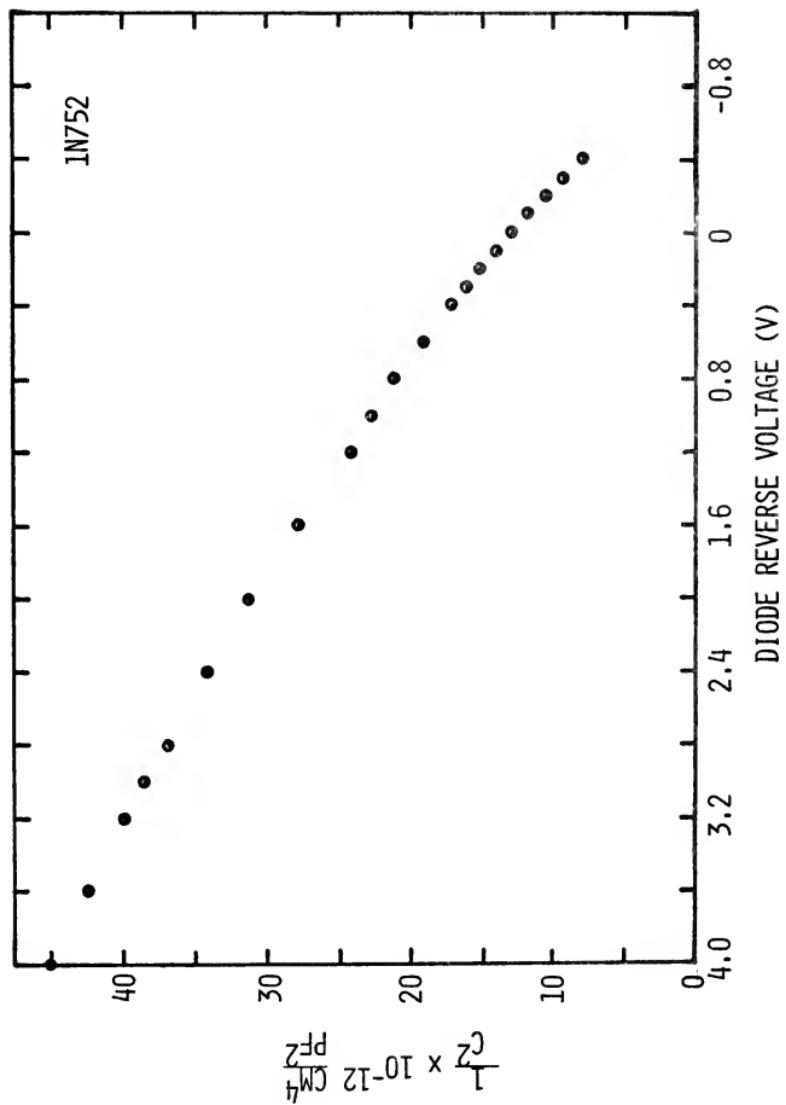


Figure 14. Junction capacitance: diode 1N752

1N746

$$NR = \frac{S_{id}}{2qI_r}$$

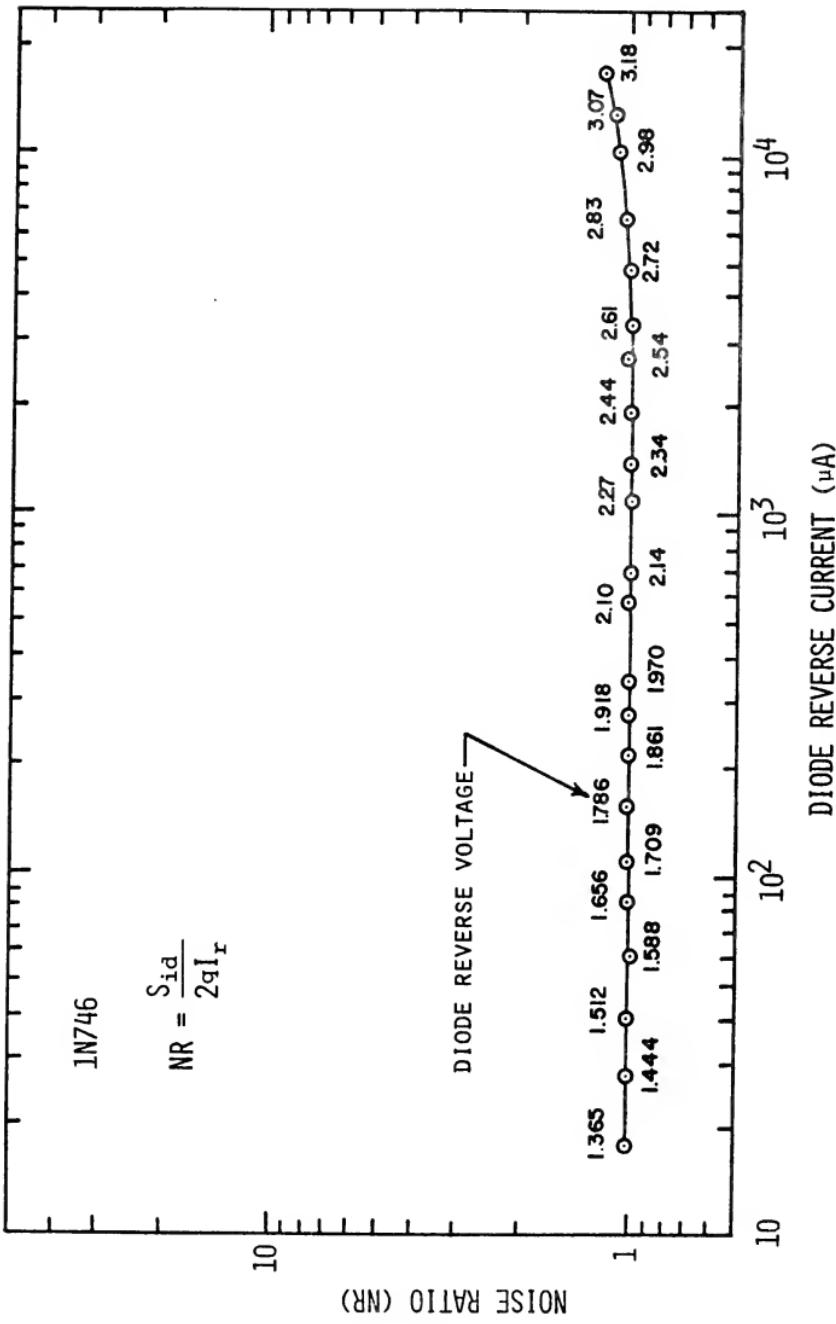


Figure 15. Noise ratio: diode 1N746

1N747

$$NR = \frac{S_{id}}{2qI_r}$$

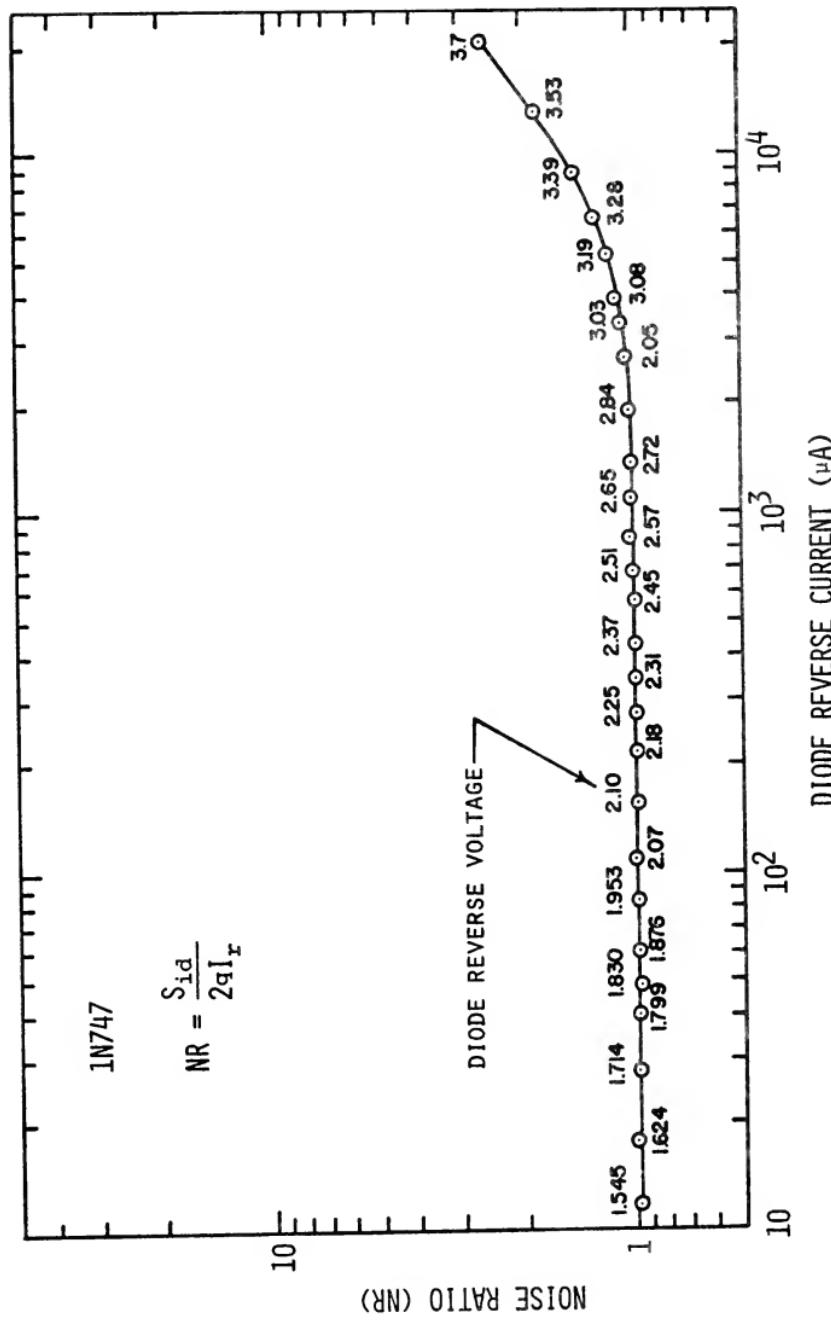


Figure 16. Noise ratio: diode 1N747

1N748

$$NR = \frac{S_{id}}{2qI_t}$$

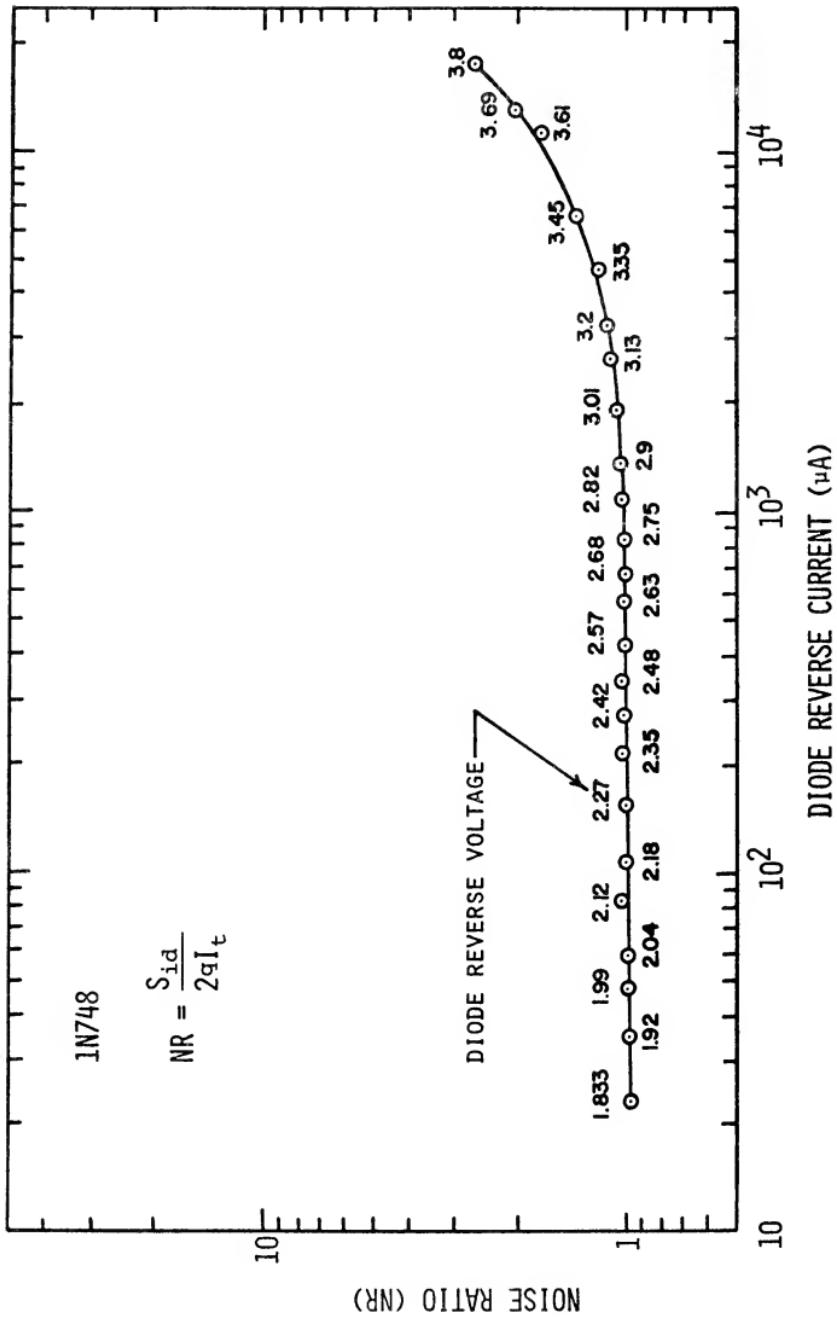


Figure 17. Noise ratio: diode 1N748

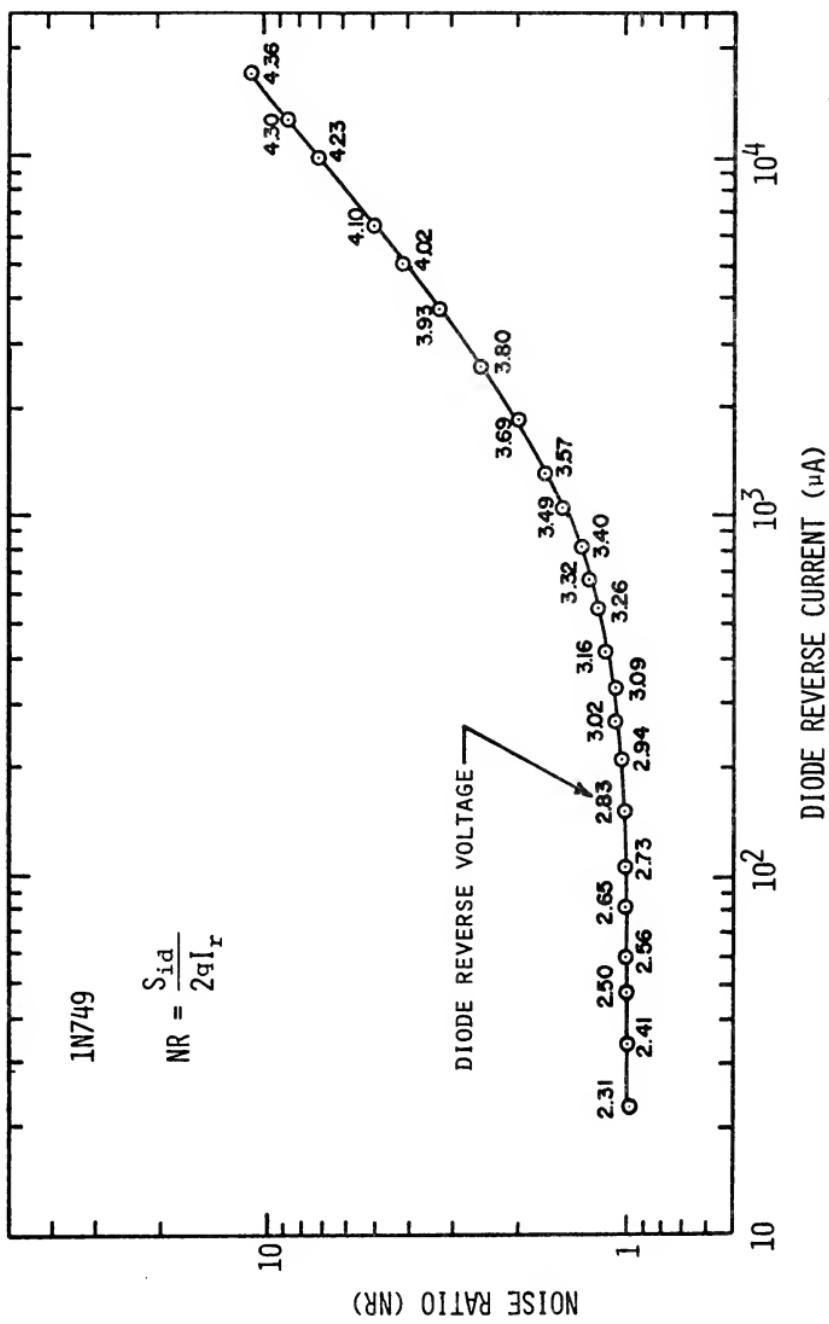


Figure 18. Noise ratio: diode 1N749

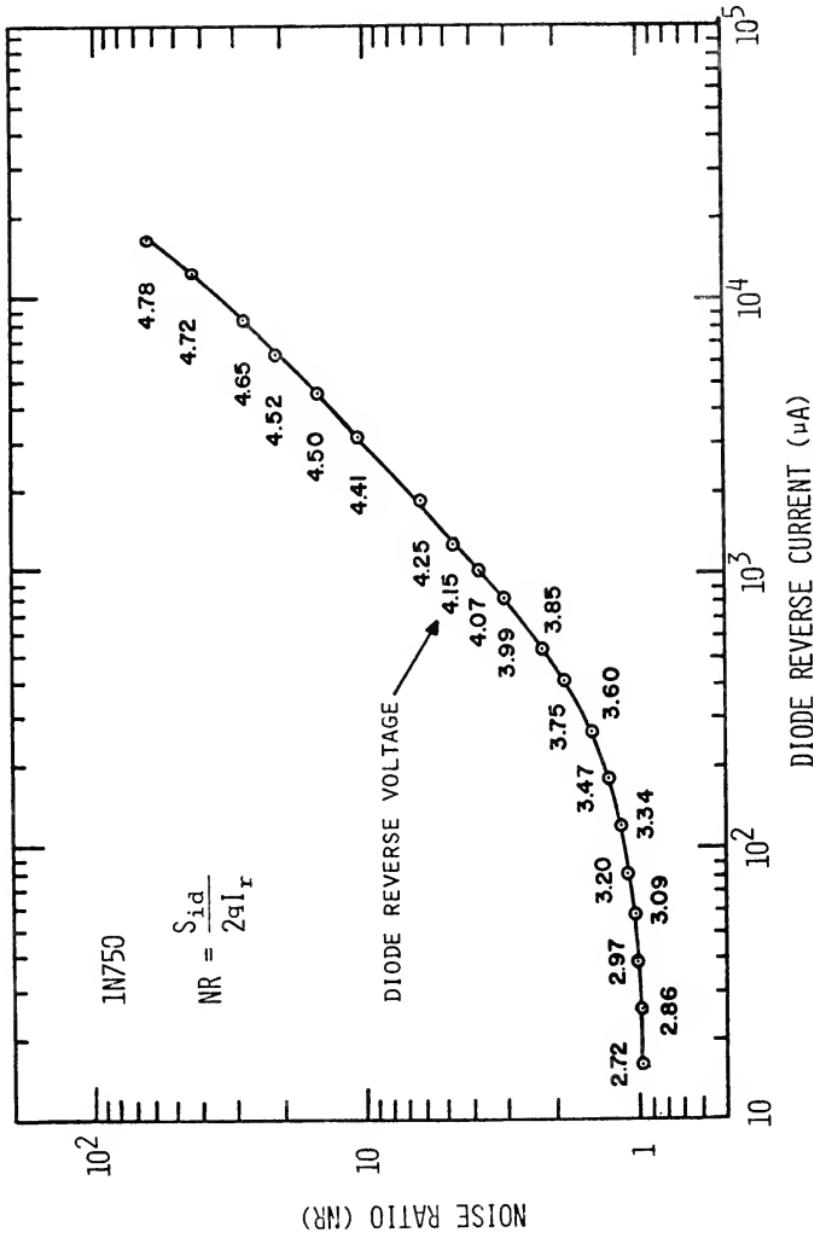


Figure 19. Noise ratio: diode 1N750

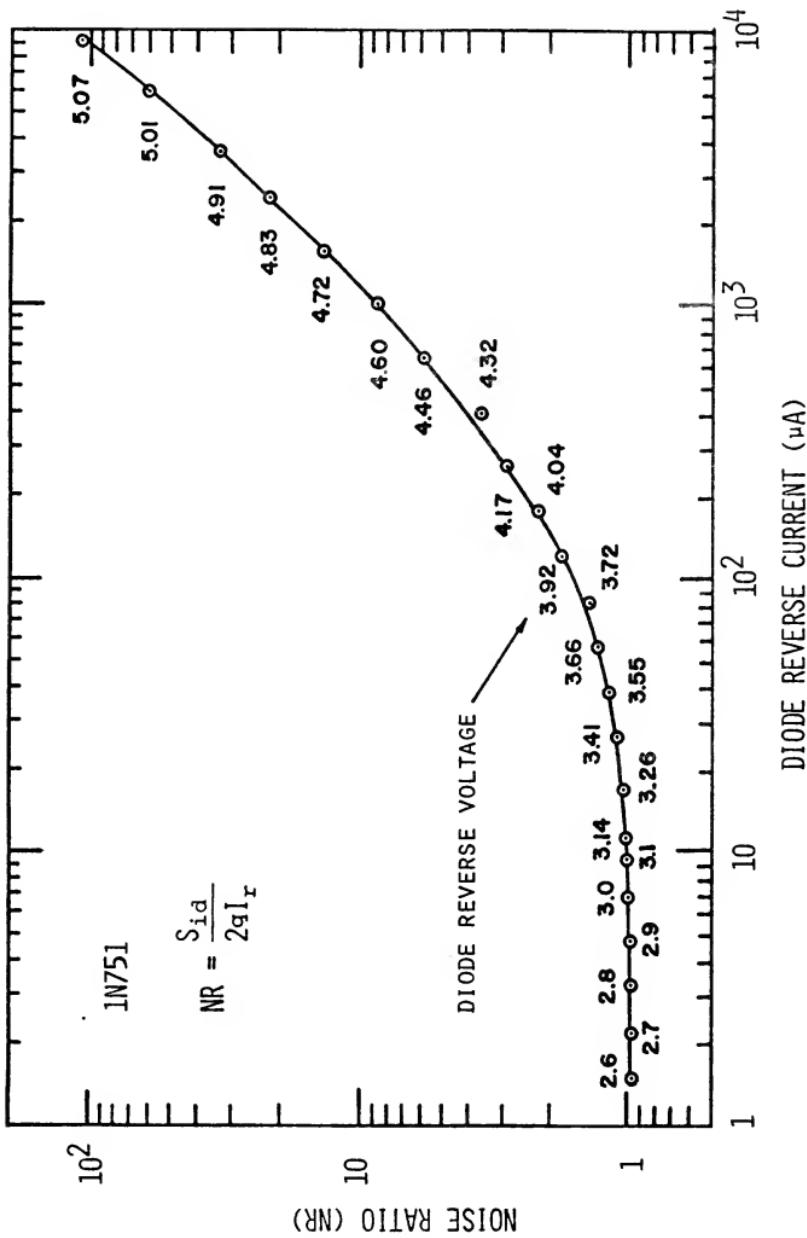


Figure 20. Noise ratio: diode 1N751

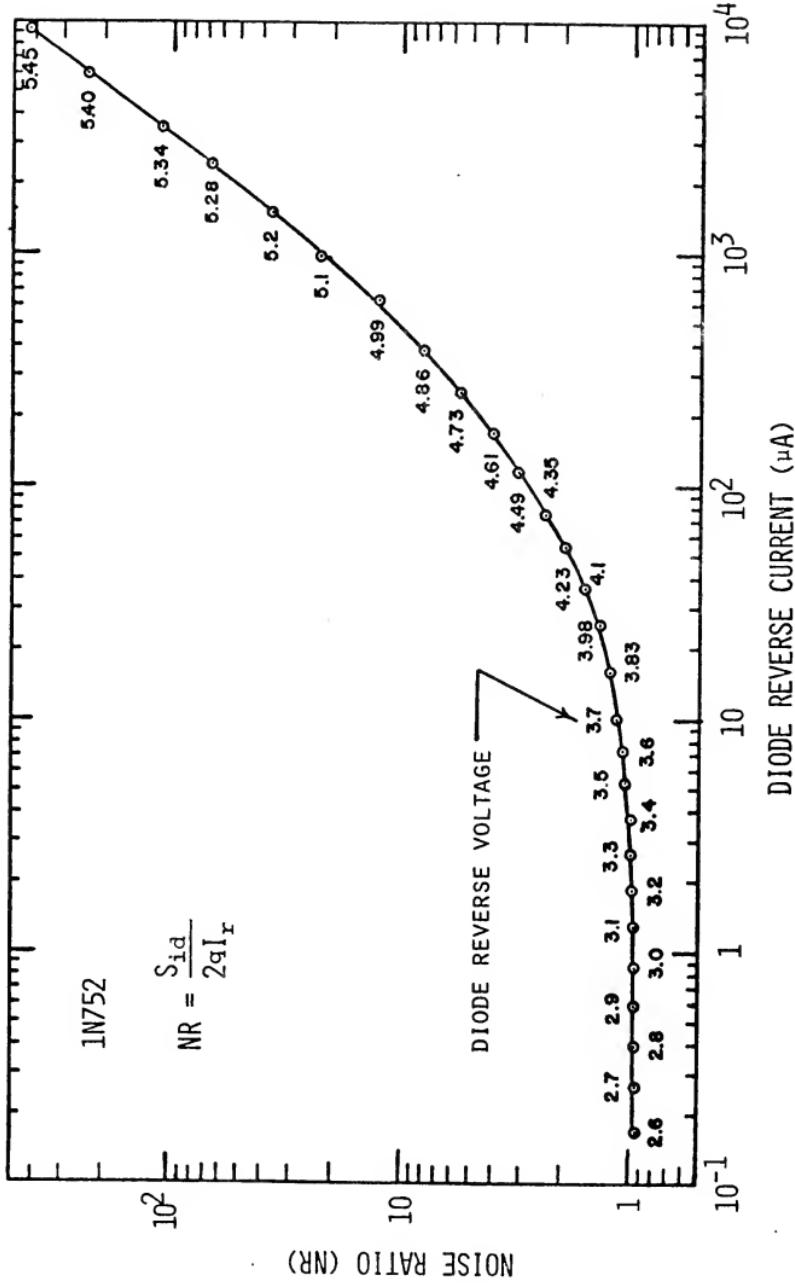


Figure 21. Noise ratio: diode 1N752

1N747 SAMPLE 2

$$NR = \frac{S_{id}}{2qI_r}$$

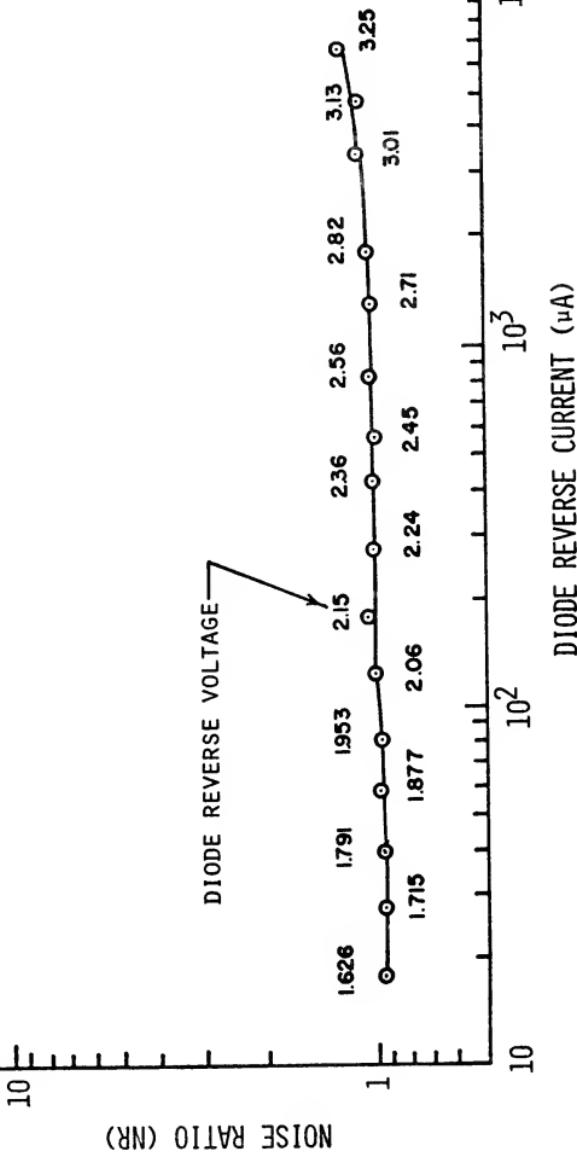


Figure 2la. Noise ratio: diode 1N747, sample 2

1N748 SAMPLE 2

$$NR = \frac{S_{id}}{2qI_r}$$

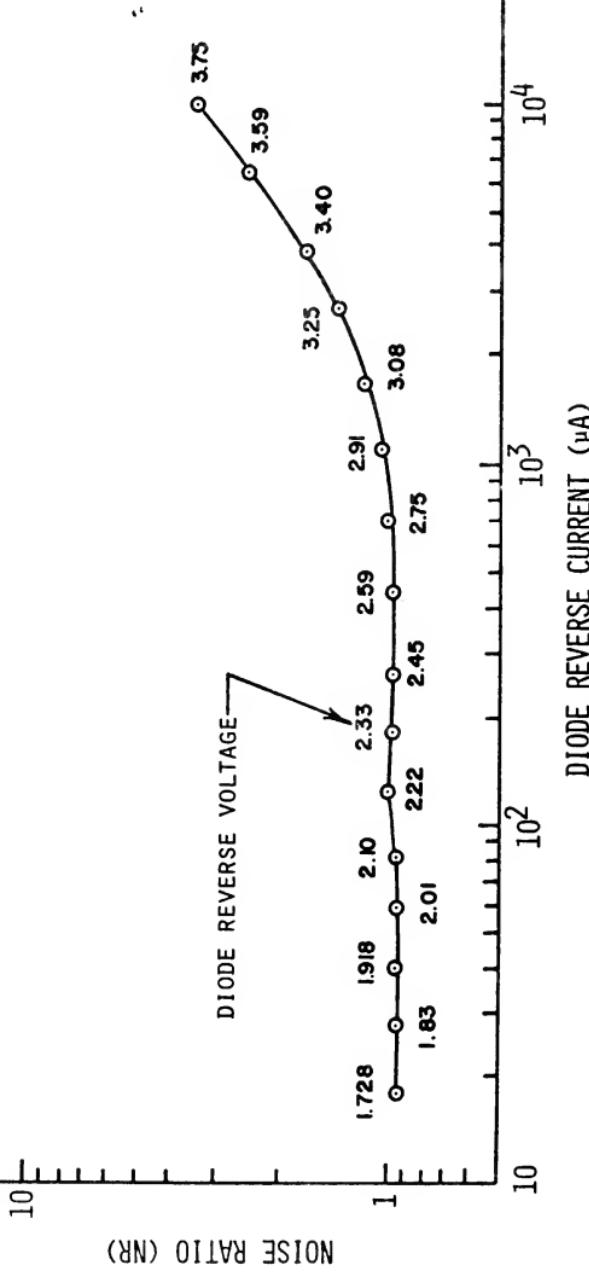


Figure 21b. Noise ratio: diode 1N748, sample 2

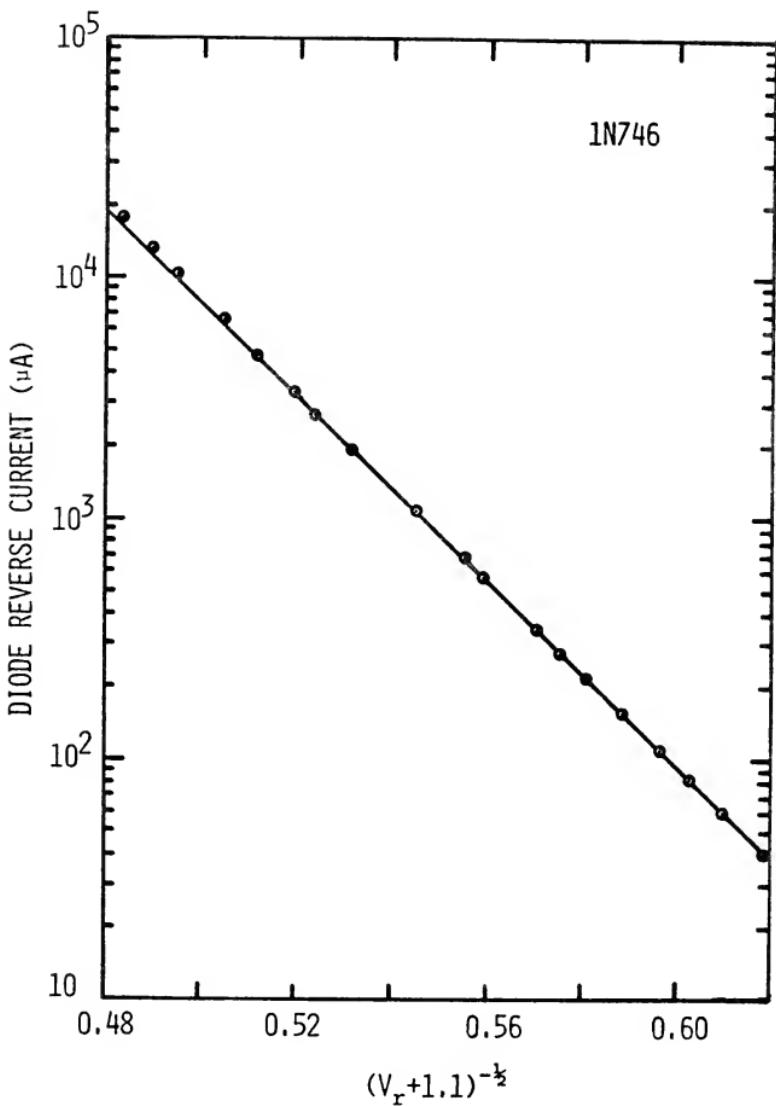


Figure 22. Reverse V-I characteristic: diode 1N746

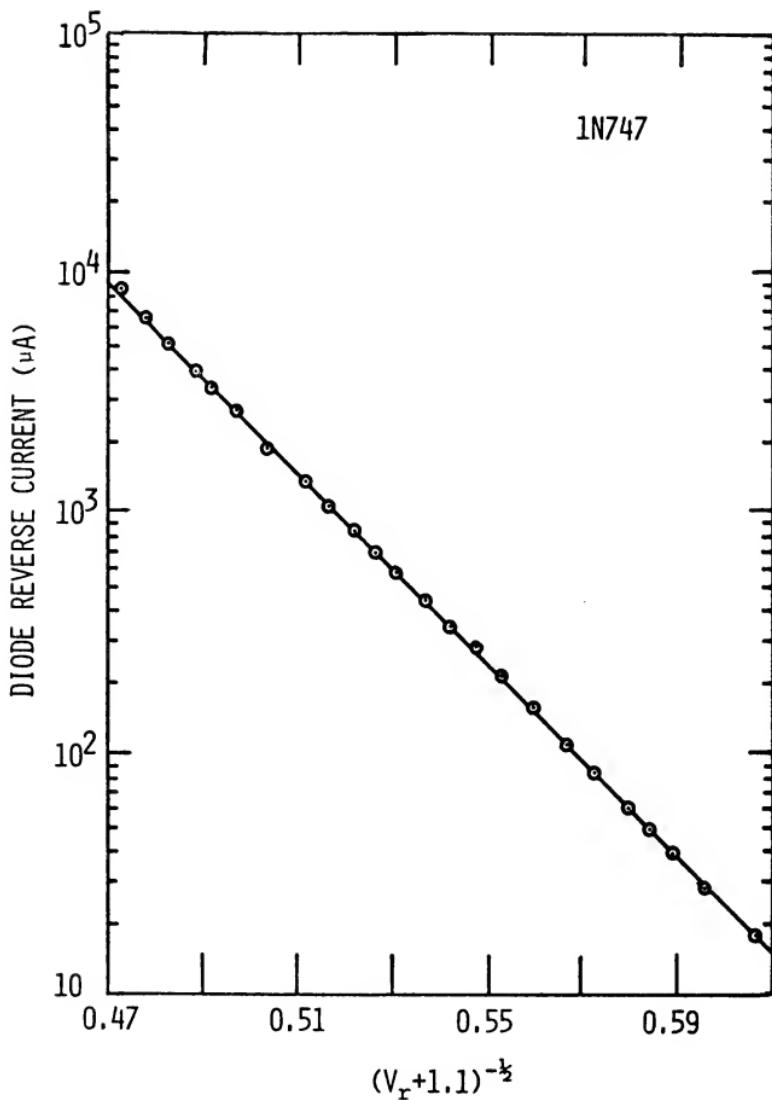


Figure 23. Reverse V-I characteristic: diode 1N747

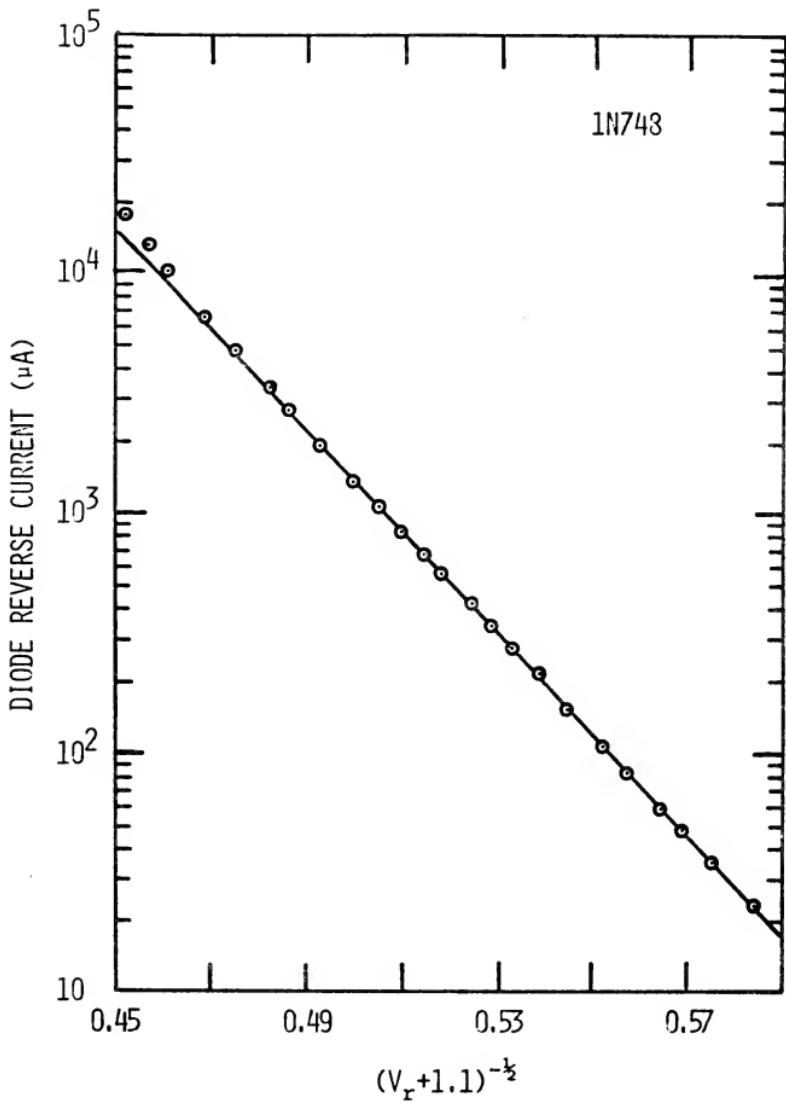


Figure 24. Reverse V-I characteristic: diode 1N748

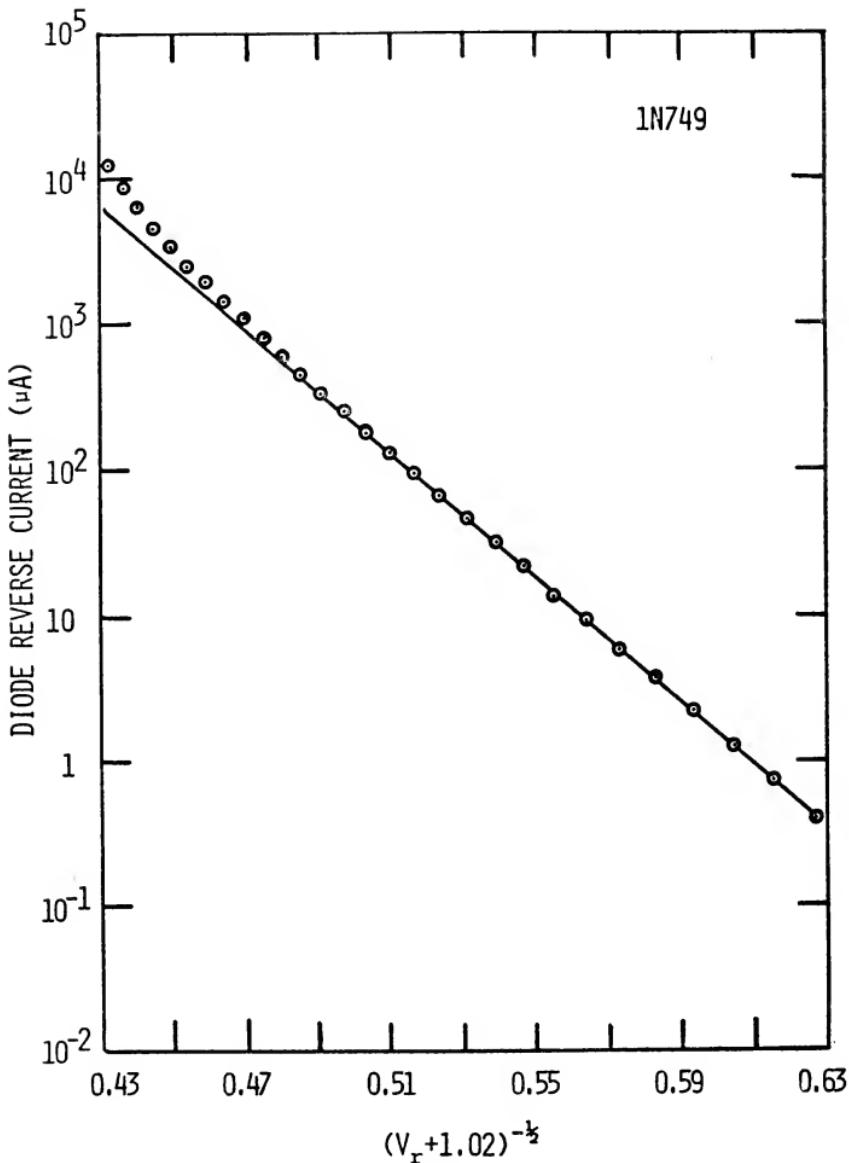


Figure 25. Reverse V-I characteristic: diode 1N749

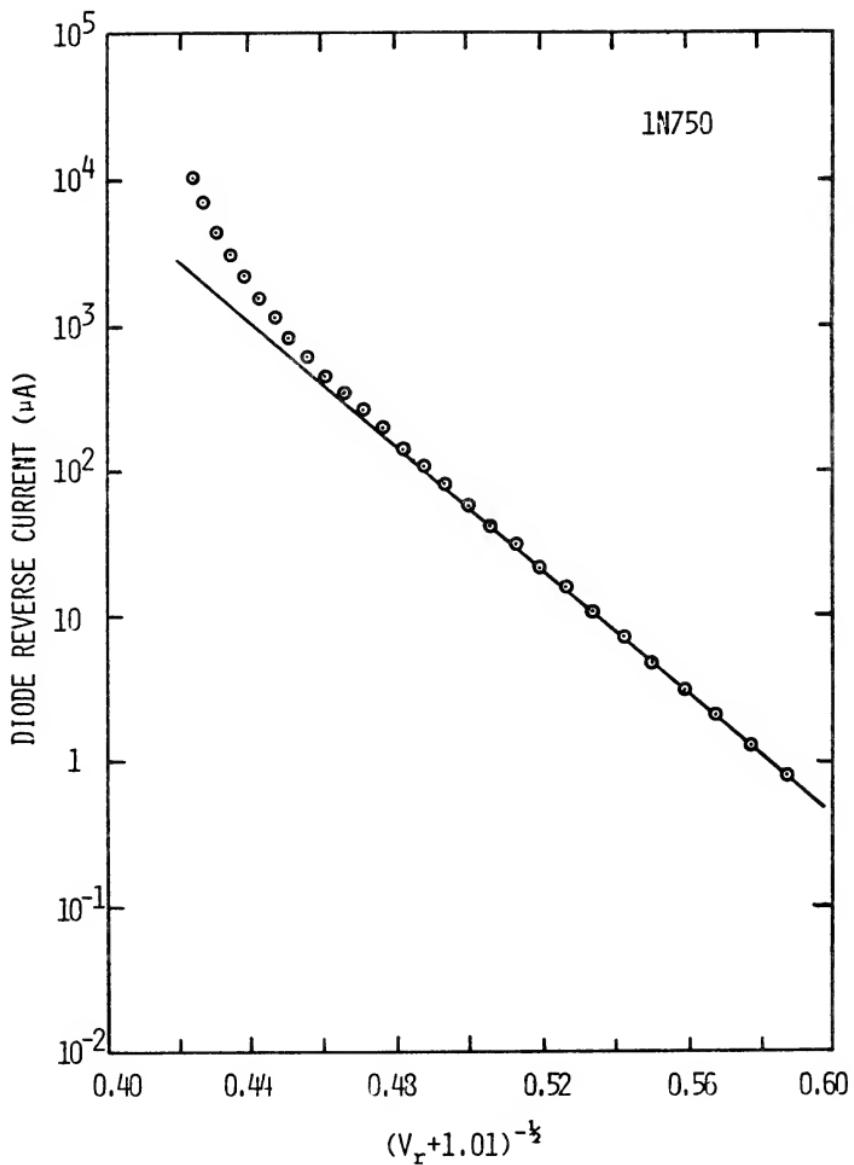


Figure 26. Reverse V-I characteristic: diode 1N750

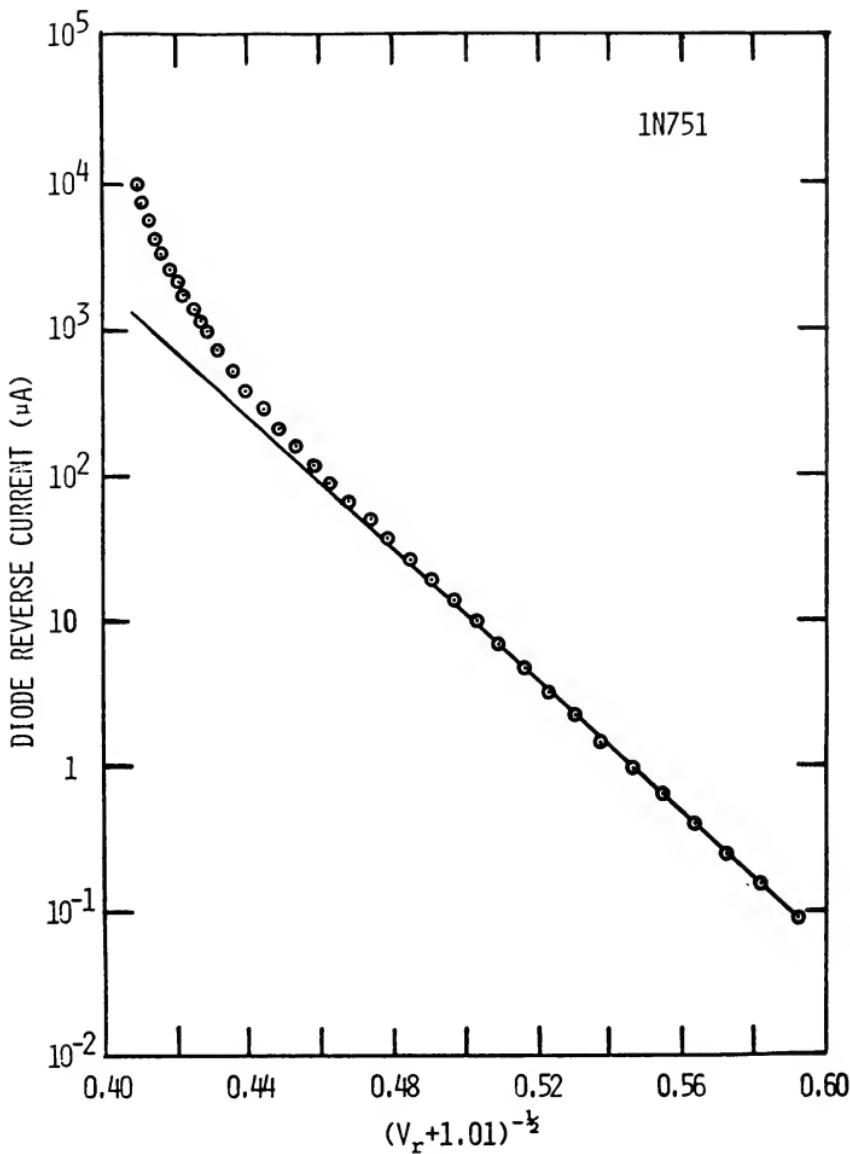


Figure 27. Reverse V-I characteristic: diode 1N751

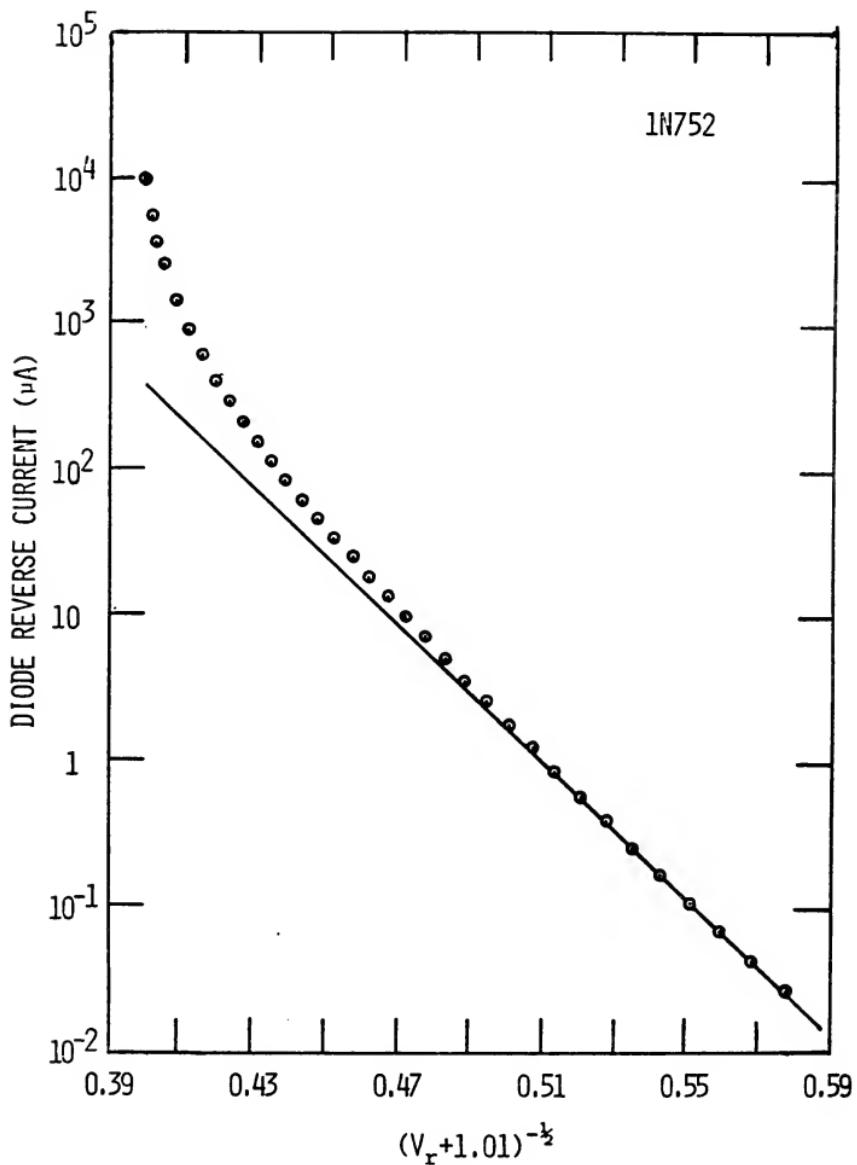


Figure 28. Reverse V-I characteristic: diode 1N752

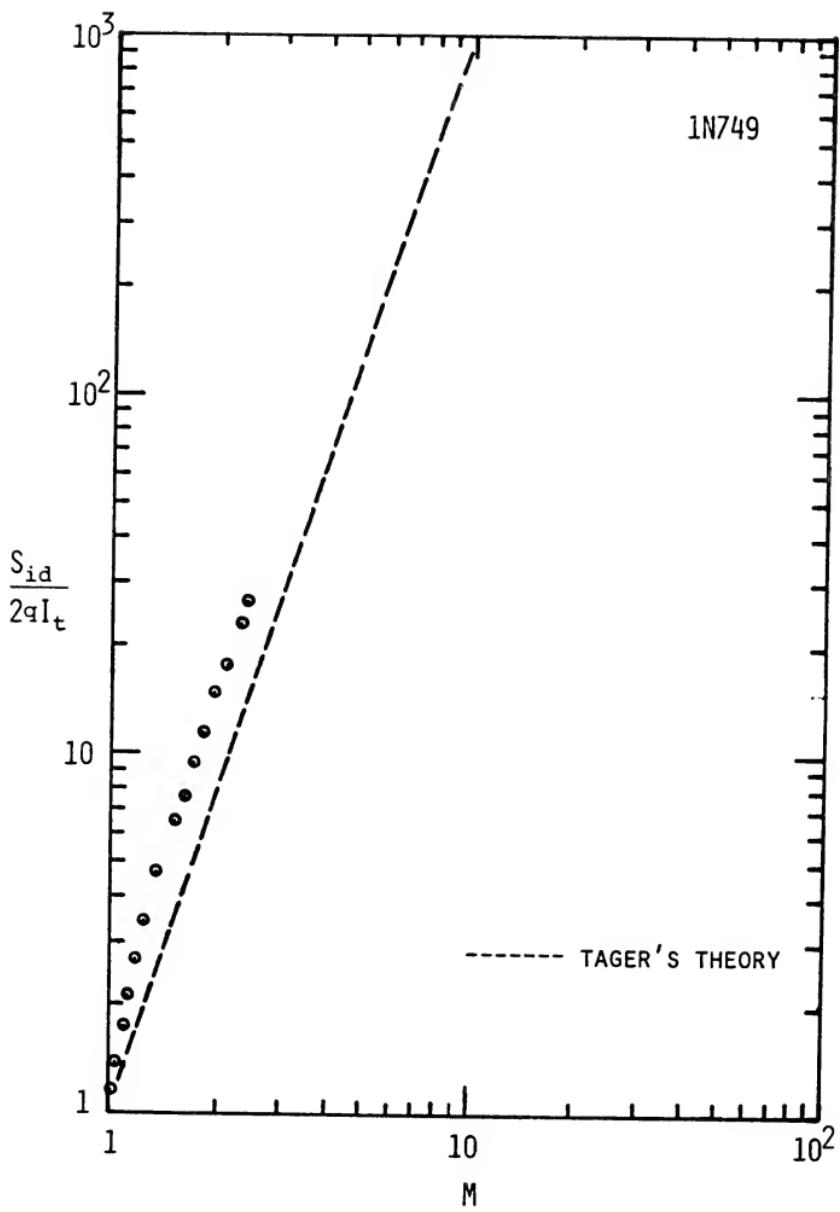


Figure 29. Comparison of Tager's theory with data:  
diode 1N749

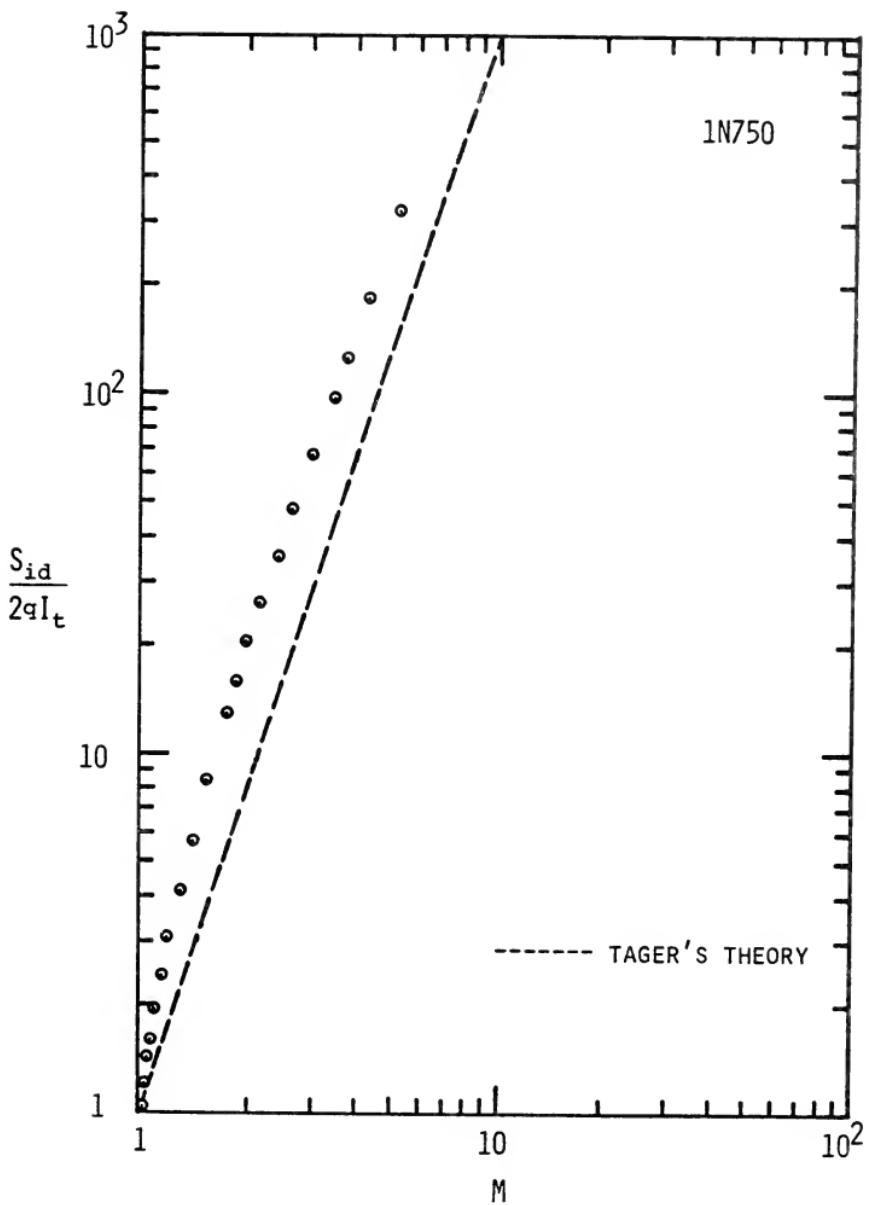


Figure 30. Comparison of Tager's theory with data:  
diode 1N750

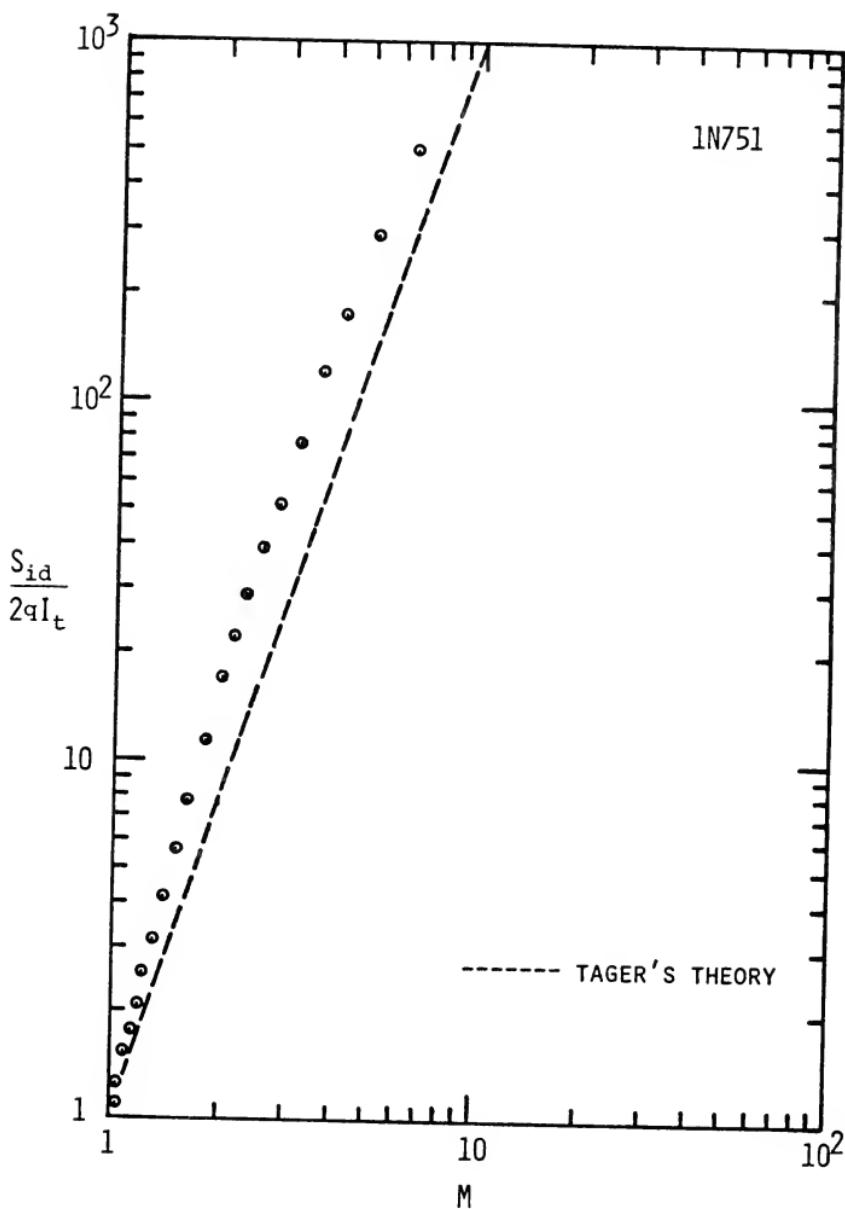


Figure 31. Comparison of Tager's theory with data:  
diode 1N751

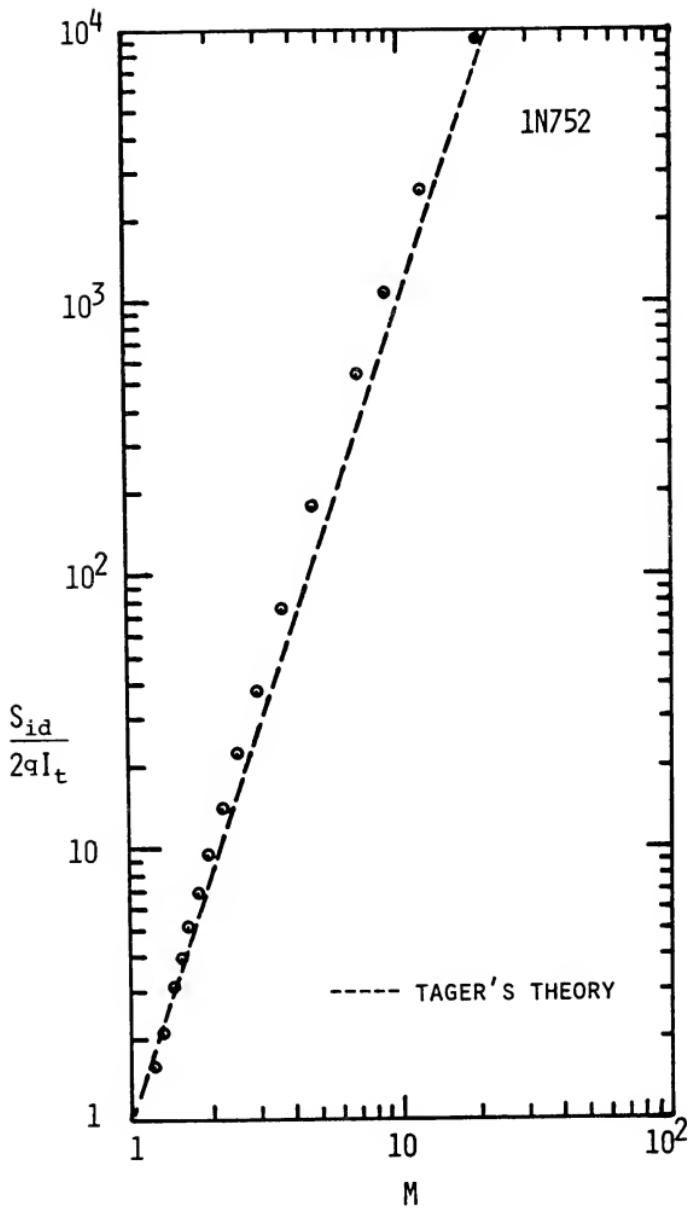


Figure 32. Comparison of Tager's theory with data:  
diode 1N752

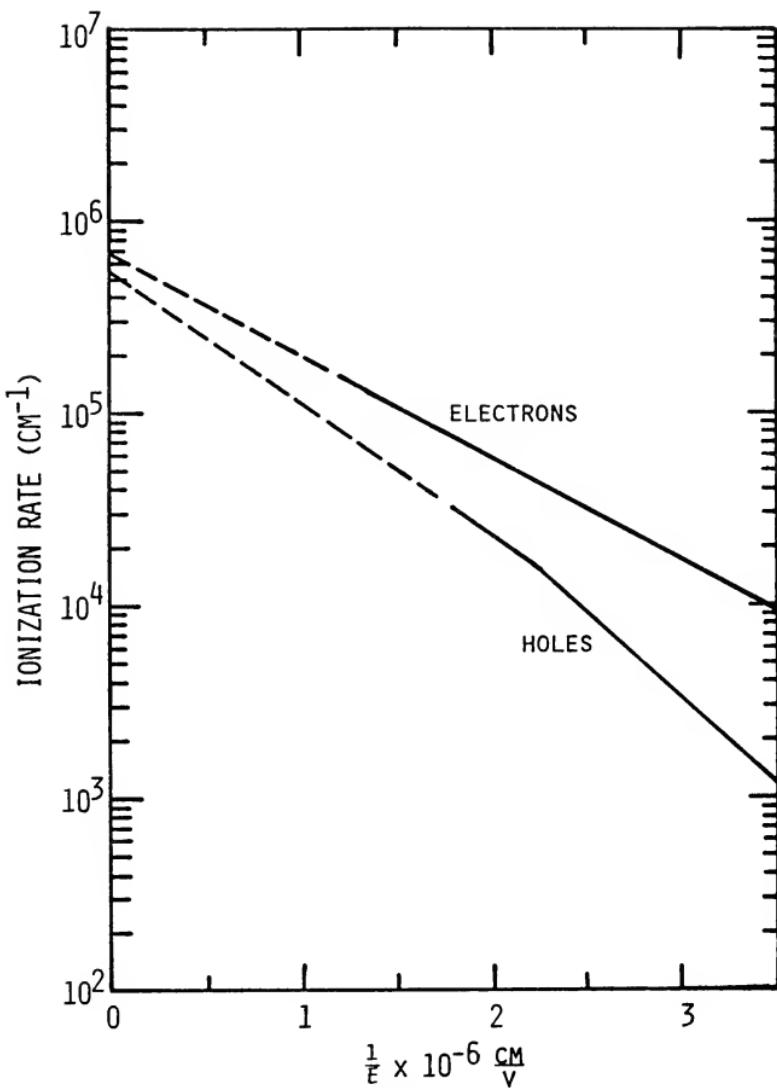


Figure 33. Ionization rates in silicon  
[after van Overstraeten and de Man (1970)]

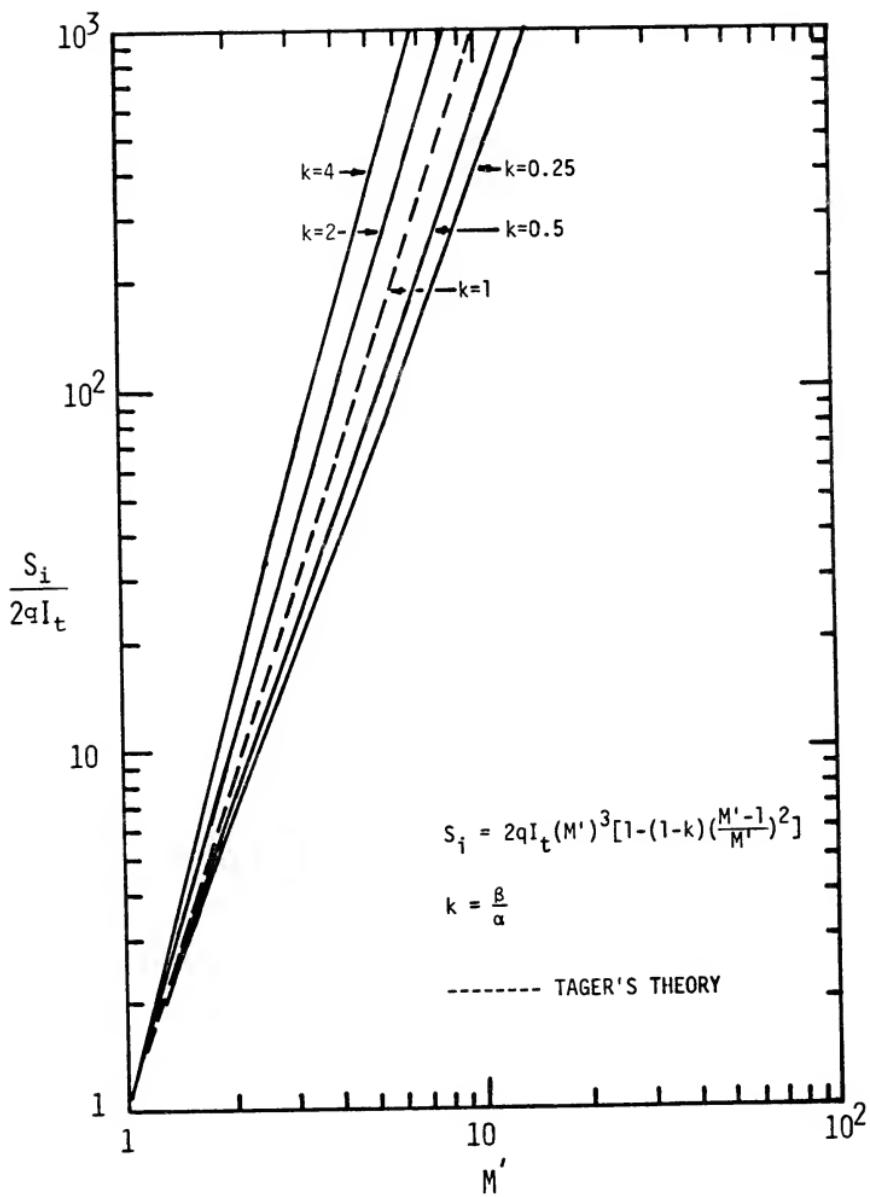


Figure 34. McIntyre's theory

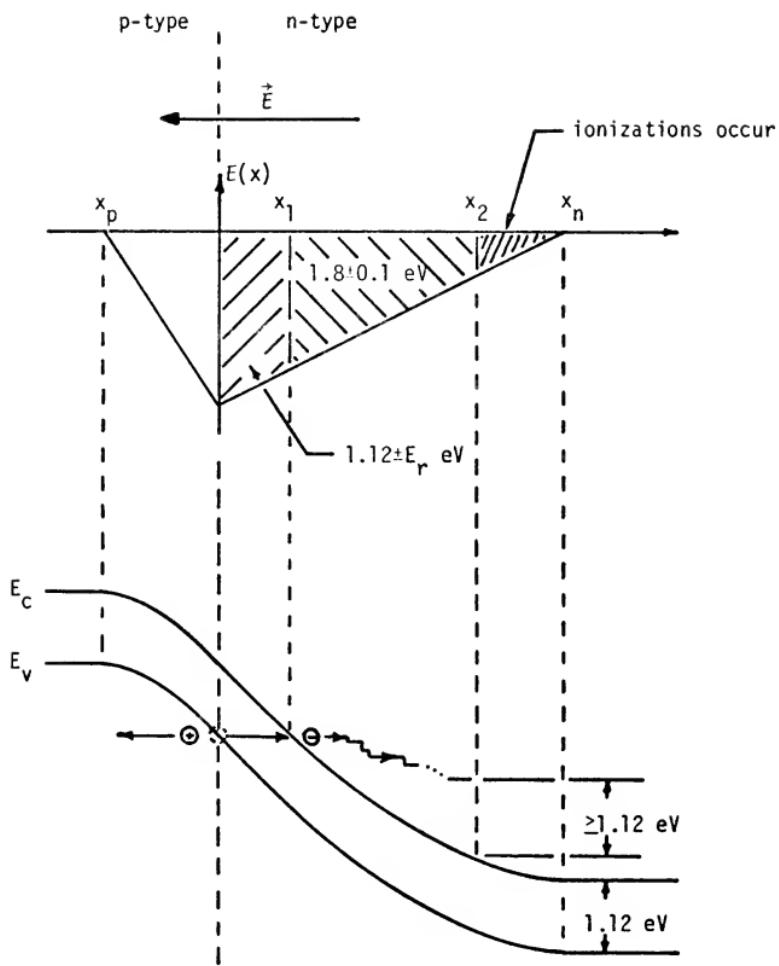


Figure 35. Multiplication threshold model

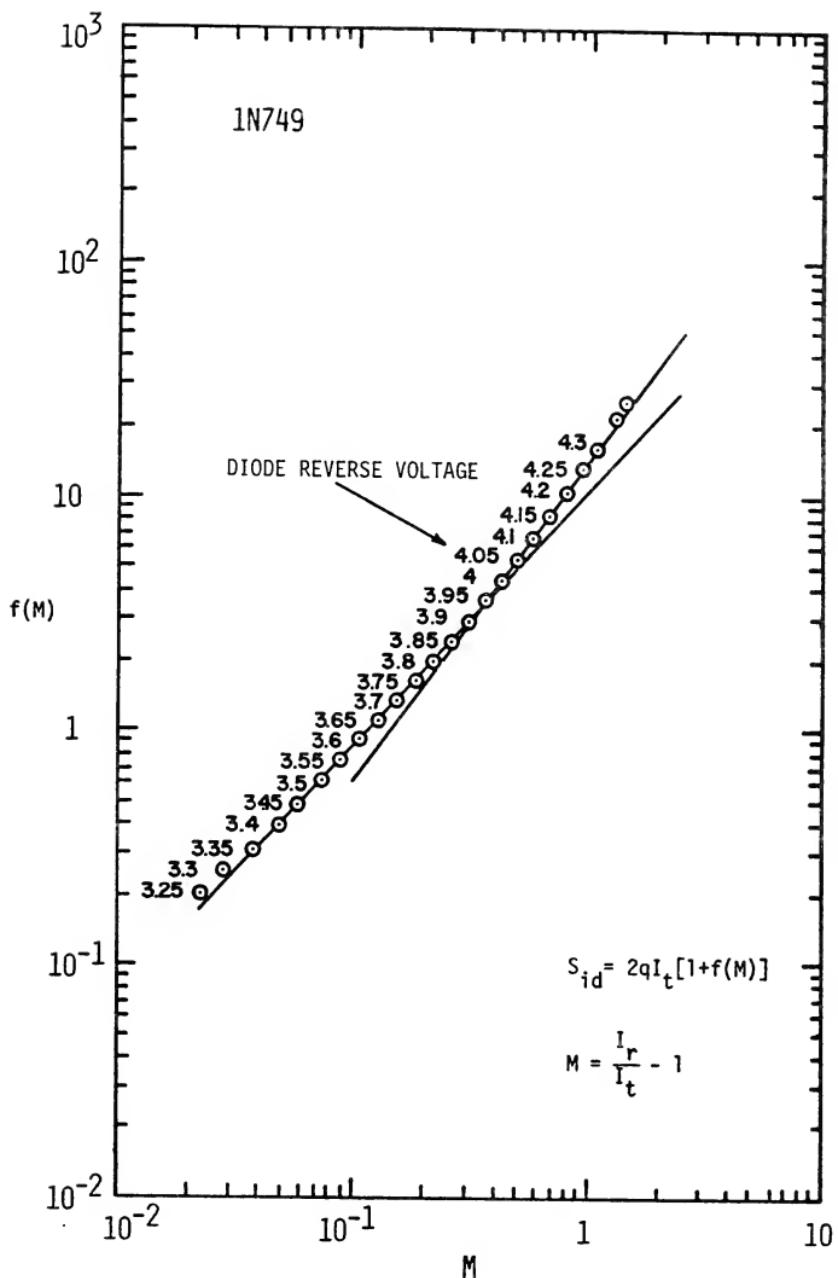


Figure 36. Multiplication noise: diode 1N749

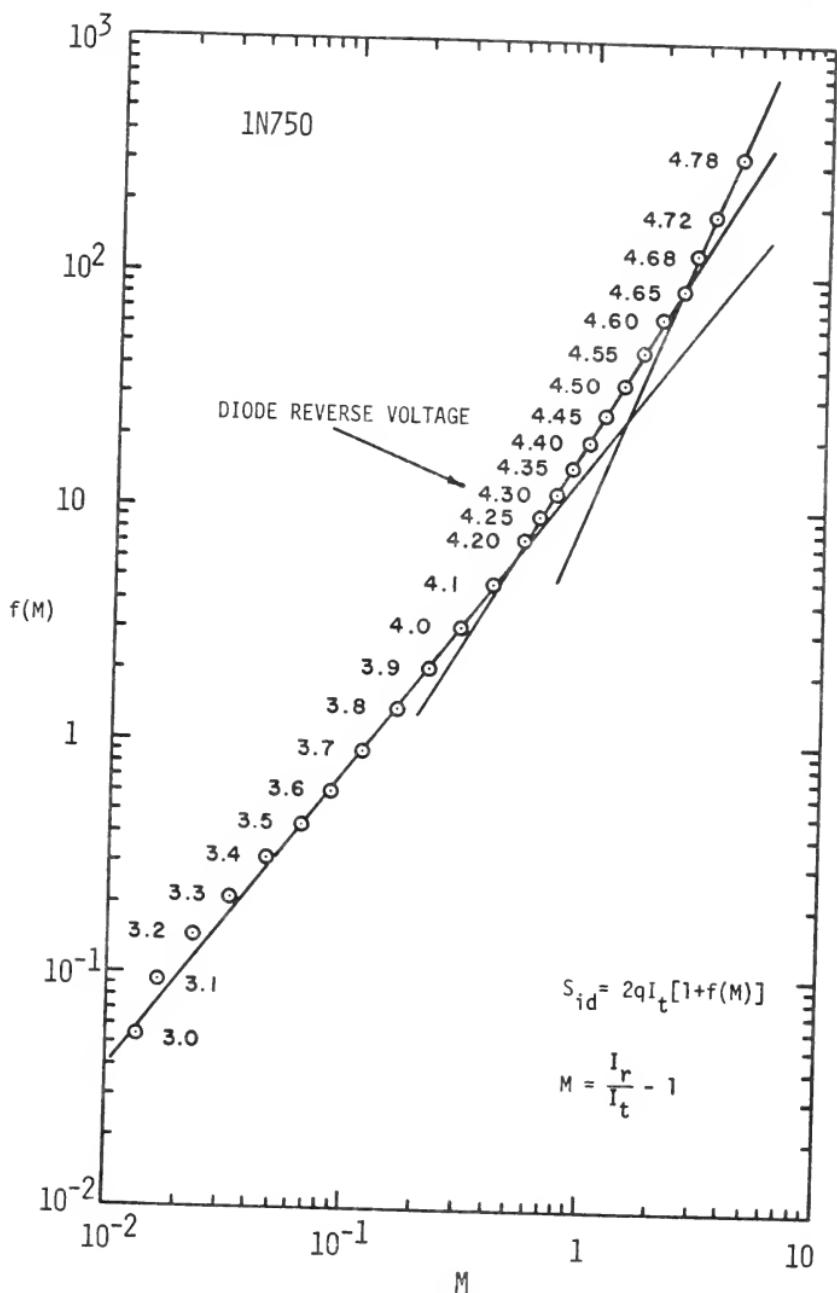


Figure 37. Multiplication noise: diode 1N750

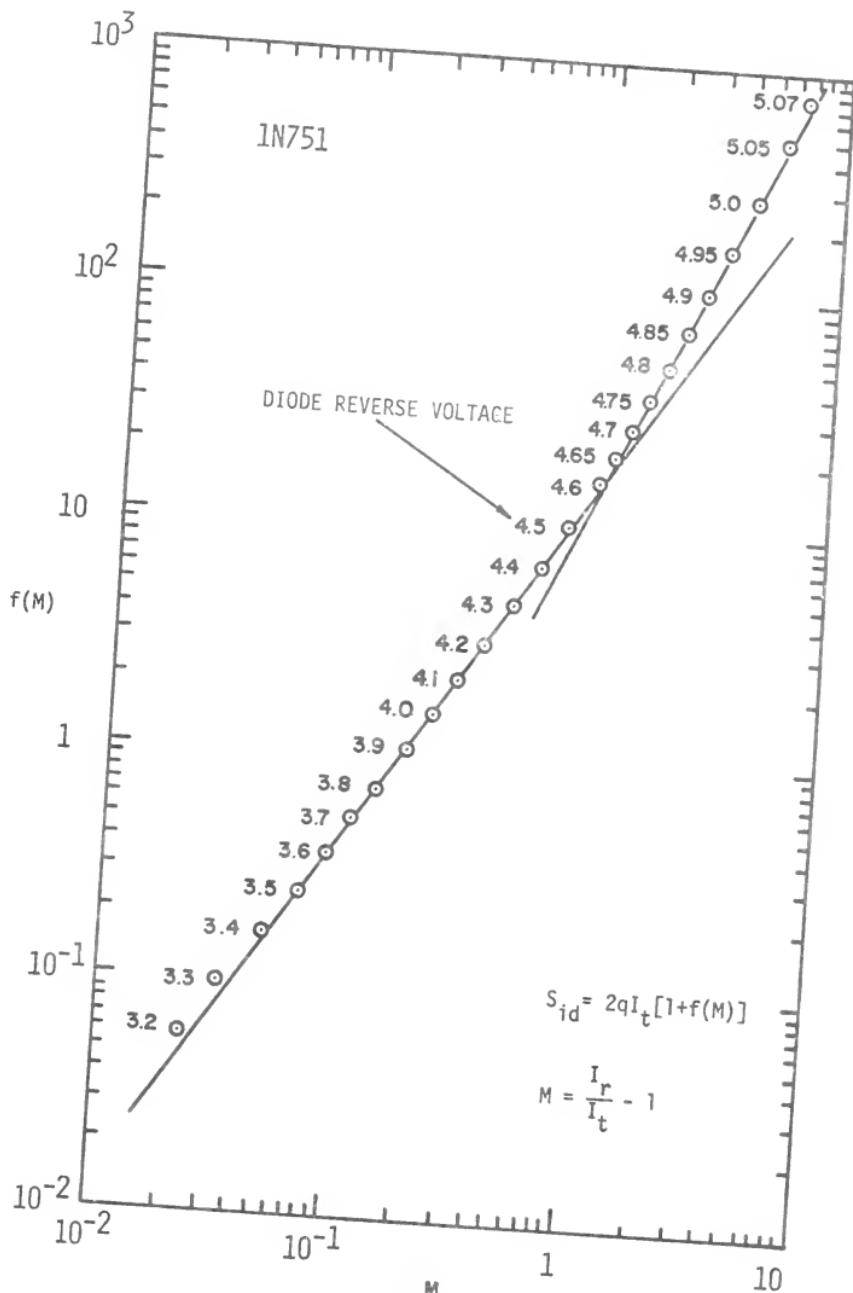


Figure 38. Multiplication noise: diode 1N751

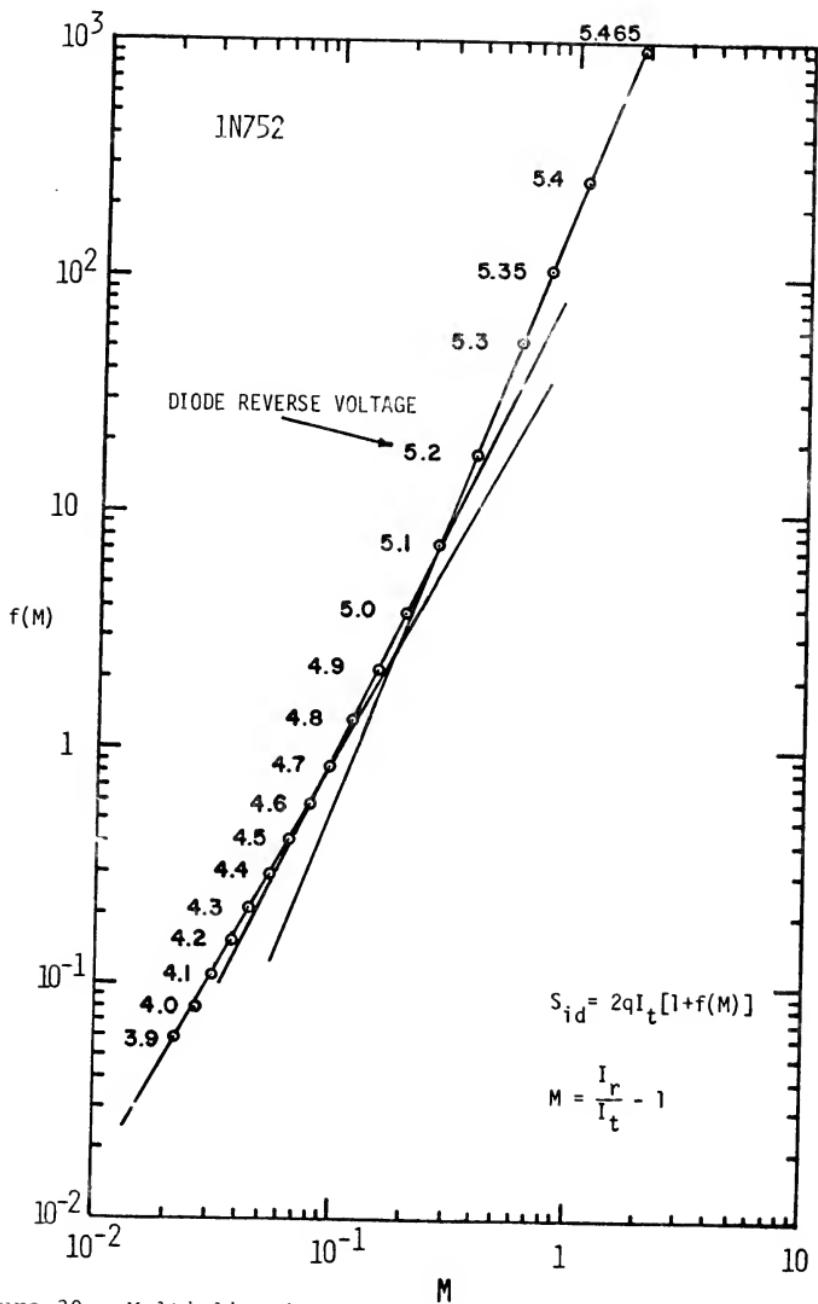


Figure 39. Multiplication noise: diode 1N752

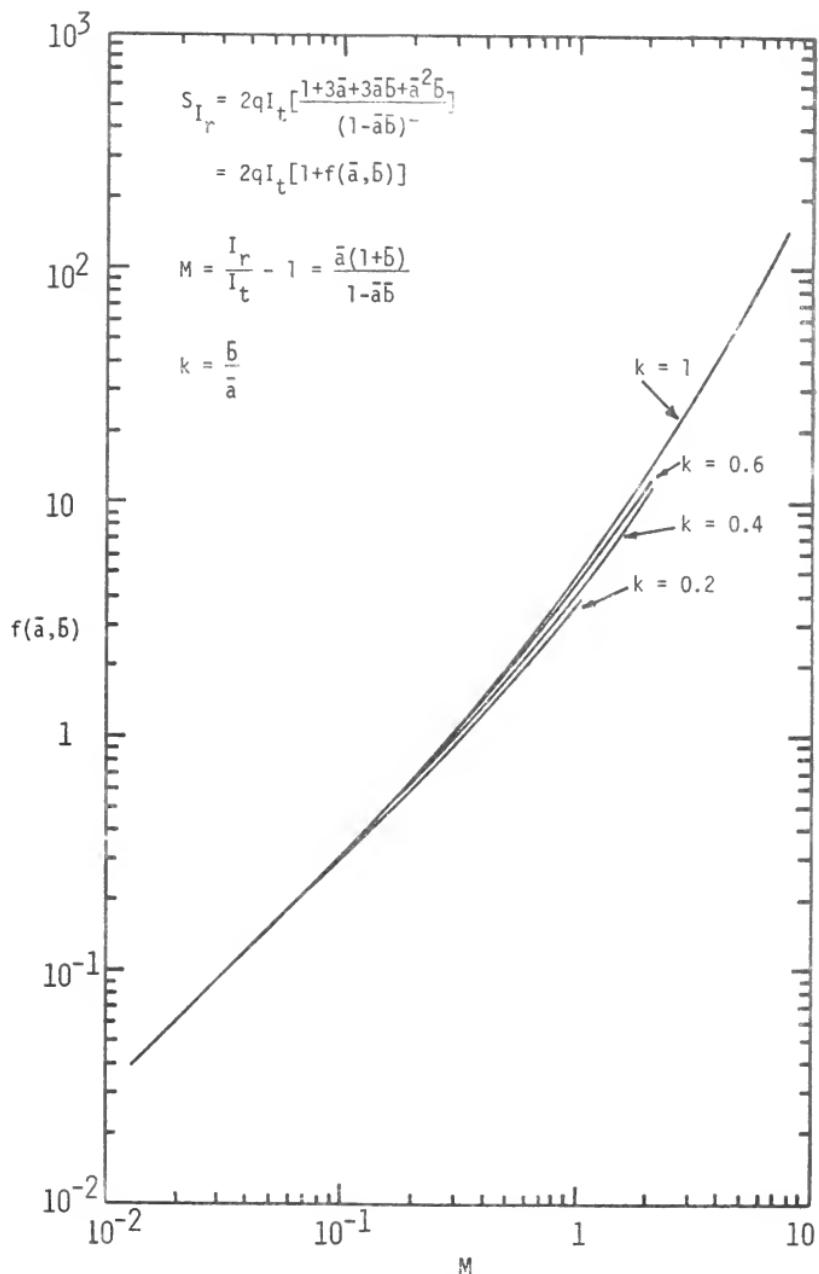


Figure 40. Multiplication noise resulting from no more than one ionization per carrier transit across SCR

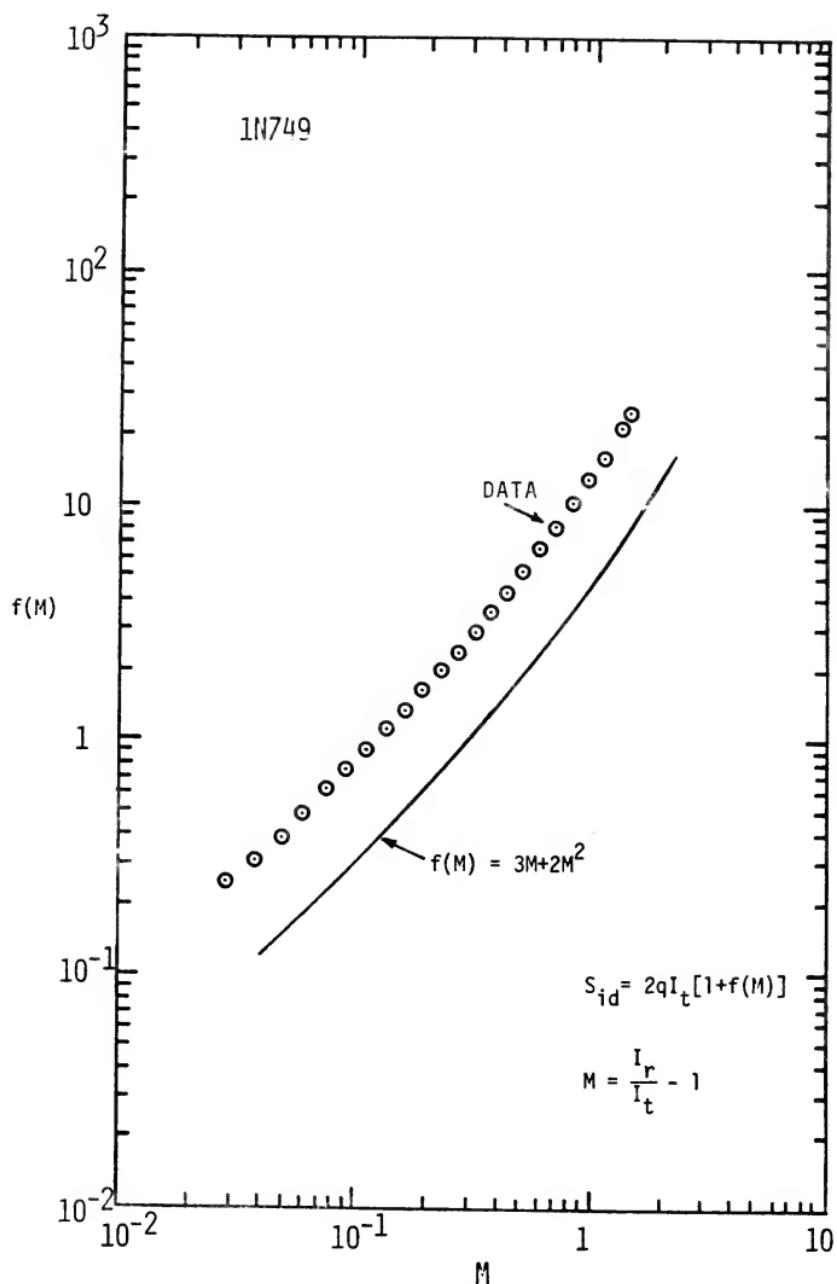


Figure 41. Comparison of one ionization per SCR transit noise theory with data: diode 1N749

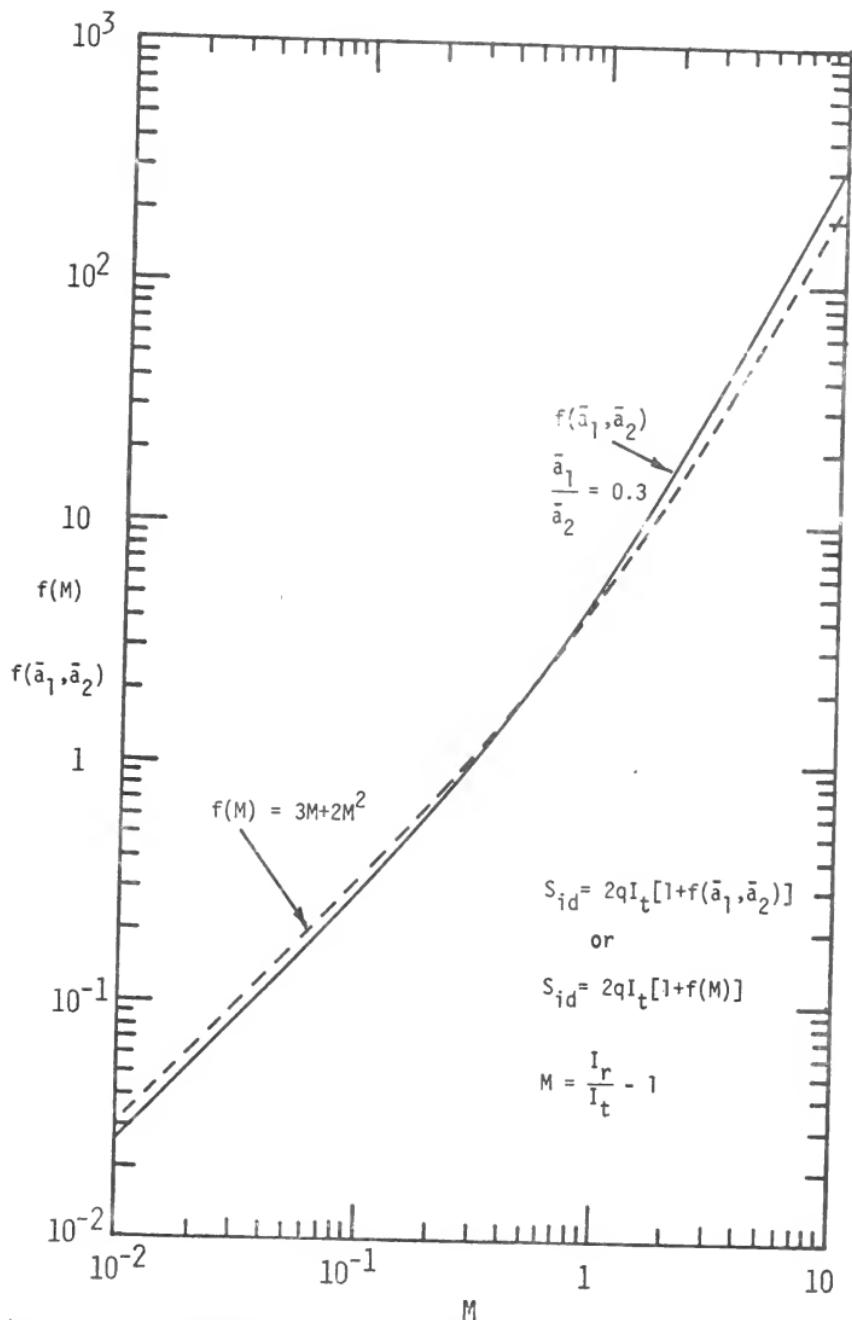


Figure 42. Comparison of one ionization noise theory,  $f(M)$ , with two ionizations noise theory,  $f(\bar{a}_1, \bar{a}_2)$

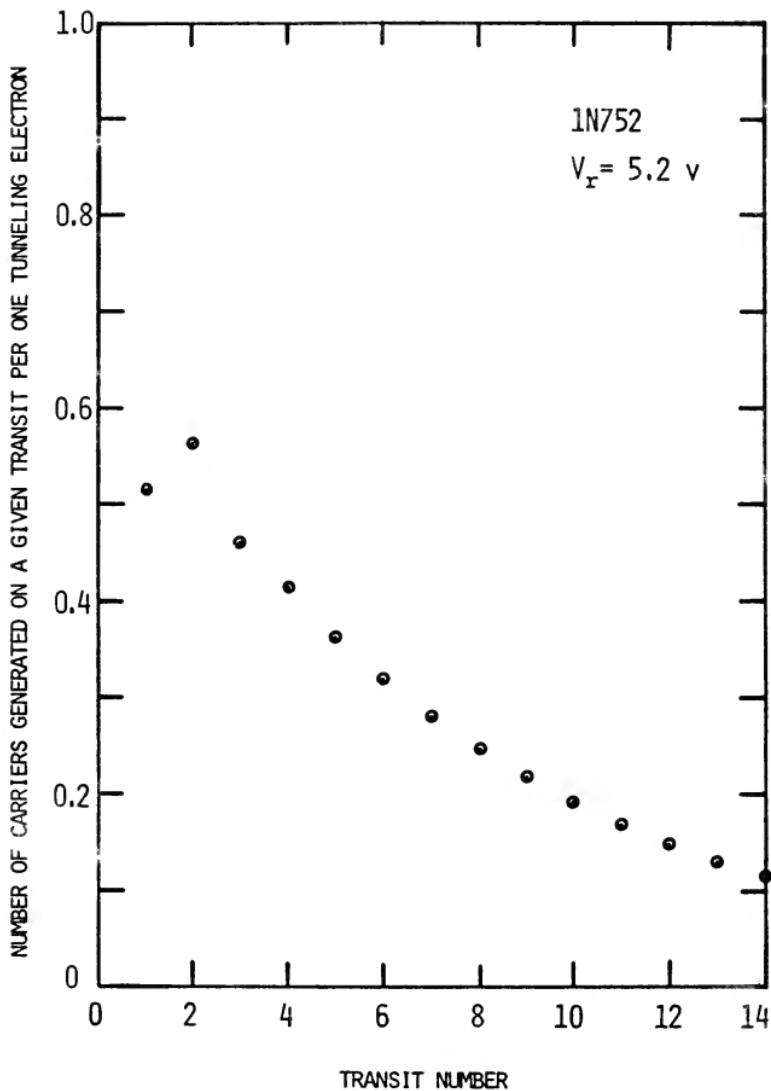


Figure 43. Contribution to multiplication on  $n$ -th carrier transit across the diode SCR

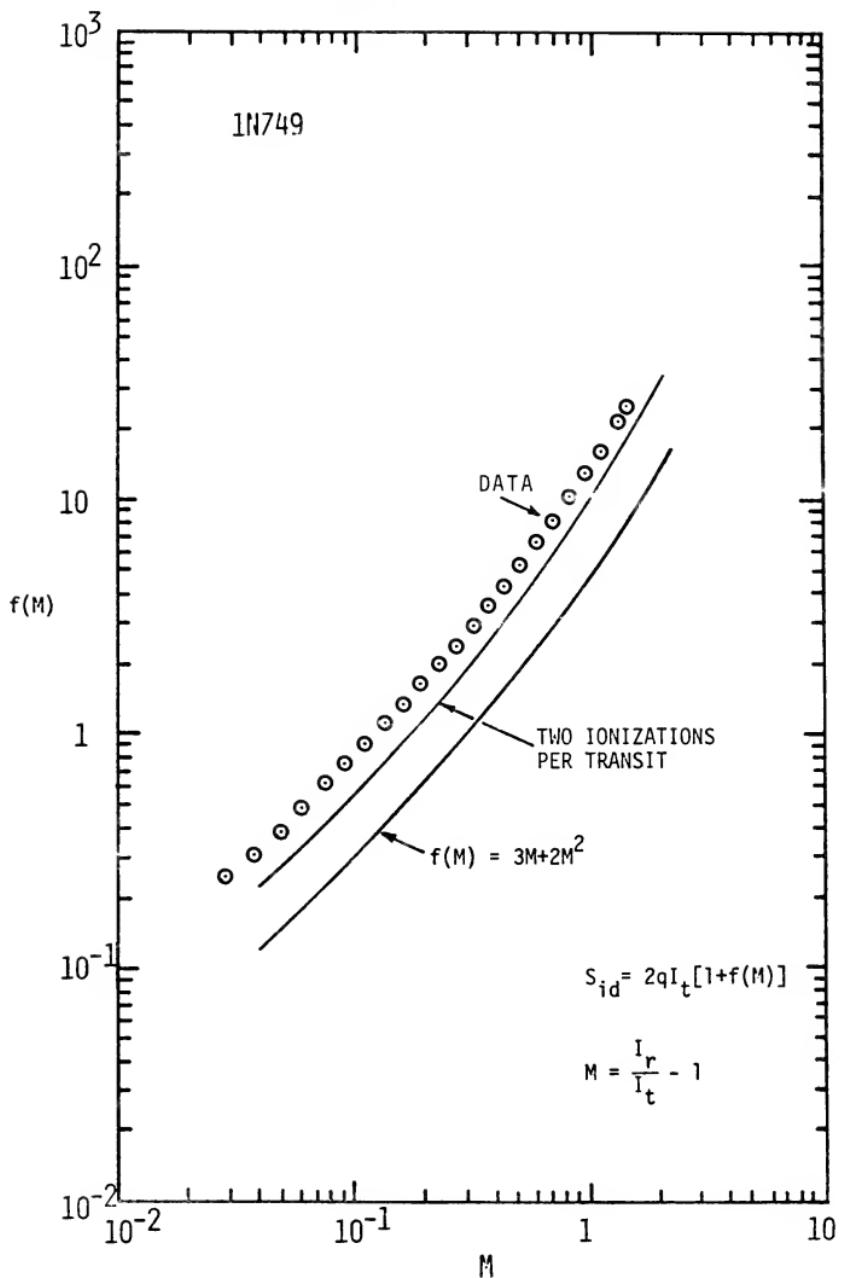


Figure 44. Comparison of noise theories with data:  
diode 1N749

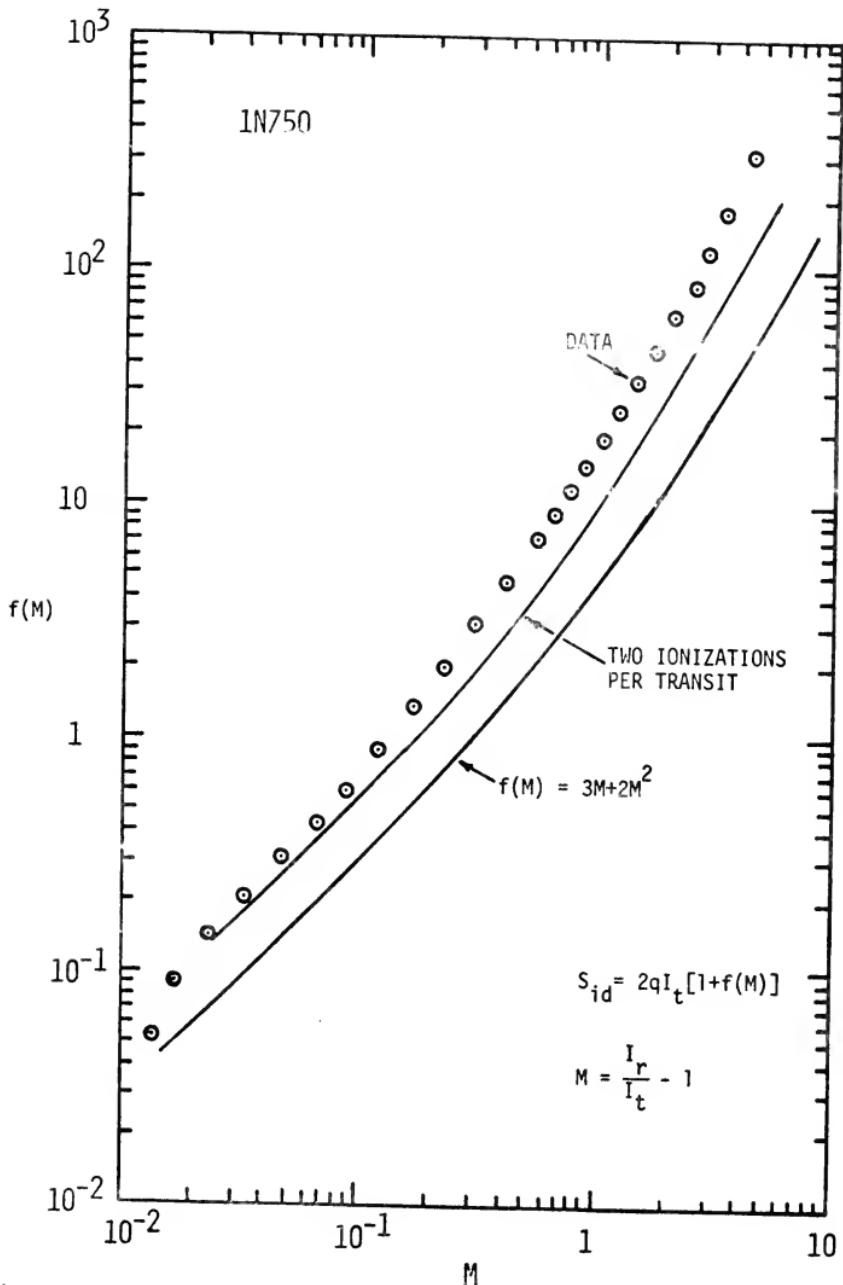


Figure 45. Comparison of noise theories with data:  
diode 1N750

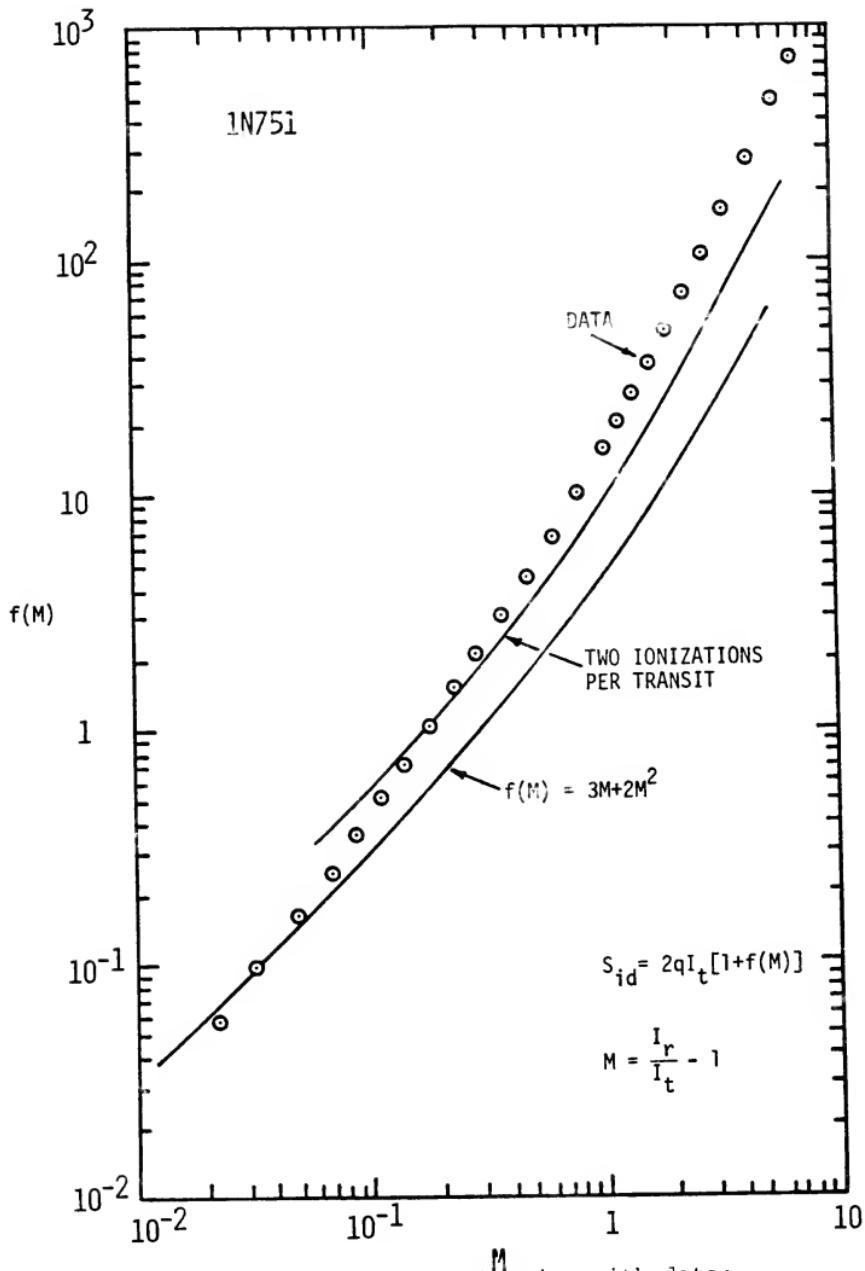


Figure 46. Comparison of noise theories with data:  
diode 1N751

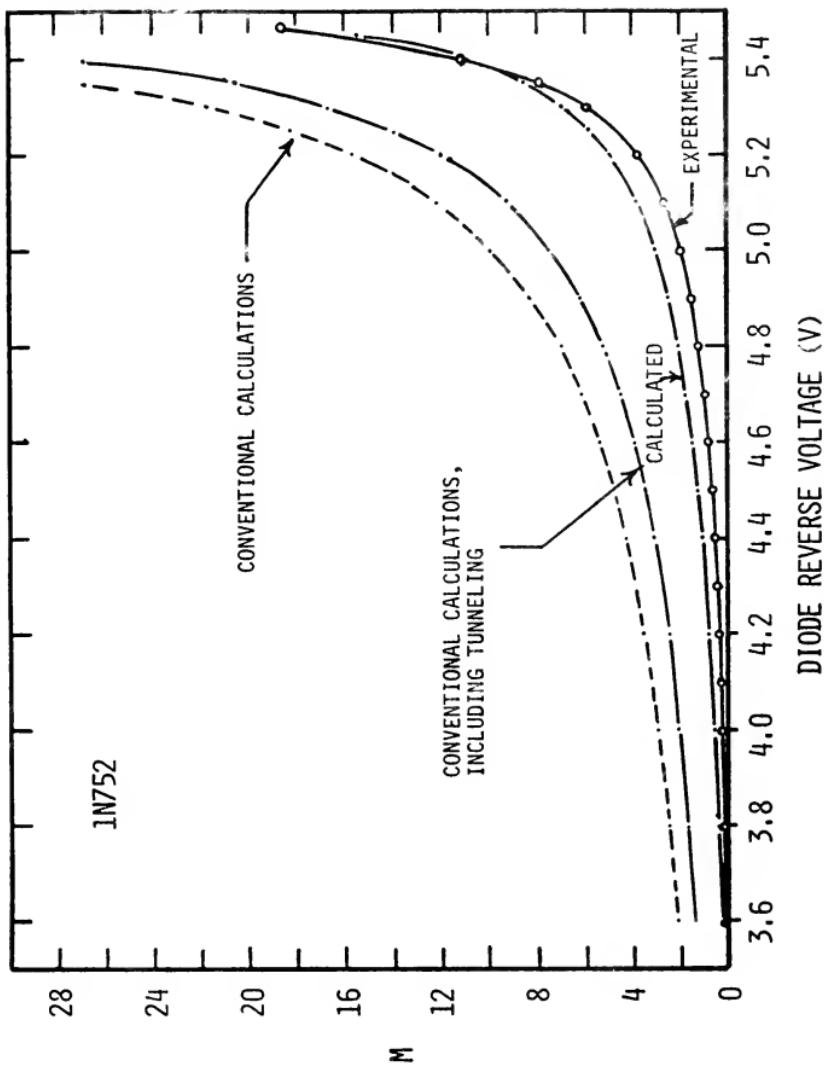


Figure 47. DC multiplication calculations: diode 1N752

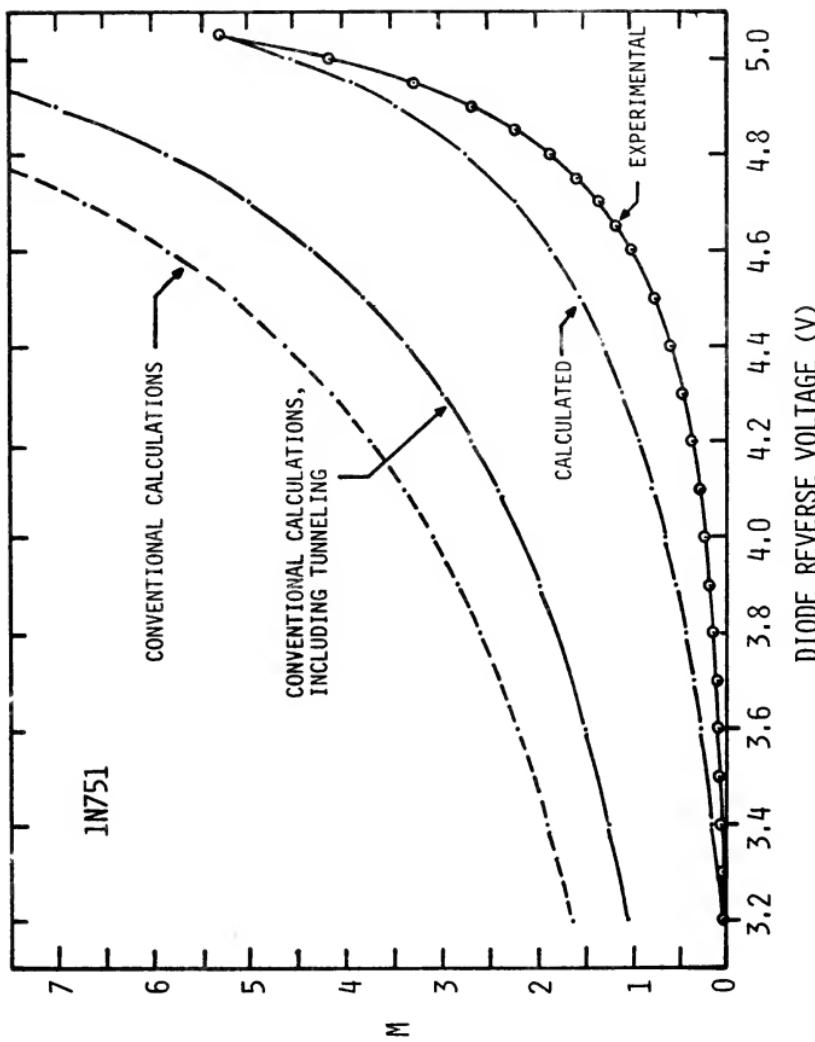


Figure 48. DC multiplication calculations: diode 1N751

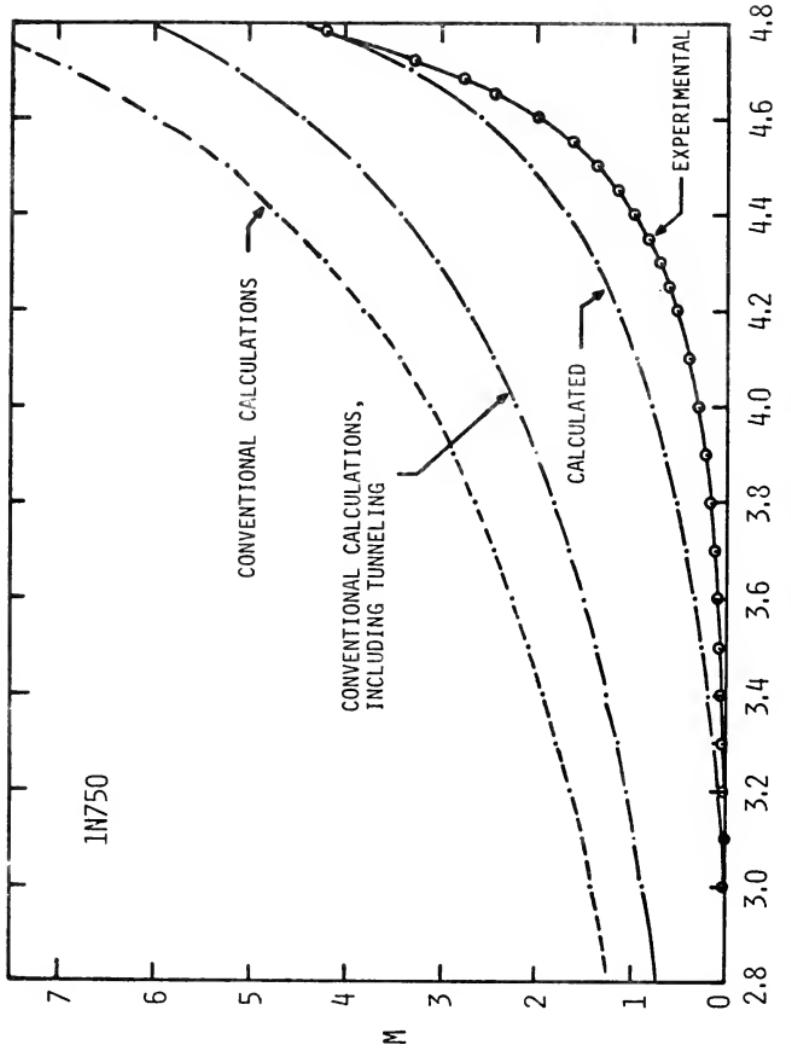


Figure 49. DC multiplication calculations: diode 1N750

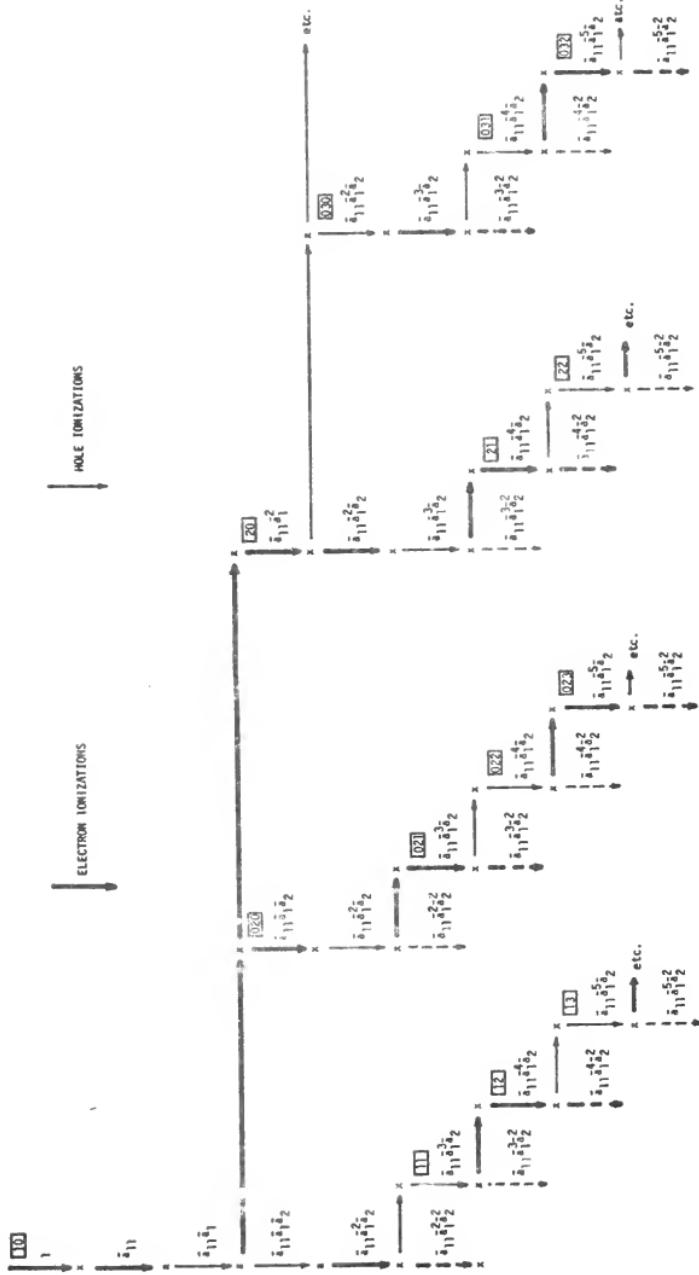


Figure 50. Multiplication process resulting from no more than two ionizations per carrier transit across diode SCR

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I certify that I have read this study and that in my opinion it conforms to acceptable standards of scholarly presentation and is fully adequate, in scope and quality, as a dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Aldert van der Ziel

Aldert van der Ziel, Chairman  
Graduate Research Professor of  
Electrical Engineering

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Charles V. Shaffer  
Professor of Electrical Engineering



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